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FBIS-EAS-92-242 CONTENTS *16 December 1992*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

- Miyazawa Asked To Make Rice ‘Political Decision’ *[KYODO]* 1
- LDP Panel Urges ‘Tenacious’ Stance on Rice *[KYODO]* 1
- Farm Union Stages Protest March in Tokyo 15 Dec *[KYODO]* 1
- Farmers Rally To Oppose Opening of Rice Market *[KYODO]* 2
- EC’s Andriessen Presses Tokyo on GATT Issue *[KYODO]* 2
  - Urges Replacing Ban With Tariffs *[KYODO]* 2
- Diet Members Warn Miyazawa on Rice Tariffication *[KYODO]* 3
- U.S. Criticism of Duty on Imported Pork Reported *[KYODO]* 4
- Tokyo To Buy AWACS ‘Despite’ Defense Cuts *[KYODO]* 4
- Finance Ministry, DA Negotiate on Budget Cut *[KYODO]* 4
- DA Asks 700 Million Yen for AWACS Budget *[KYODO]* 5
- Kadena Denies Near Collision With Airliner *[OKINAWA TIMES 16 Dec]* 5
- Russian Industrialist Volskiy Makes Visit 5
  - Meets With Trade Minister Mori *[KYODO]* 5
  - Discusses Possible Yeltsin Visit *[Tokyo TV]* 6
  - Comments on Preparations, Issues *[KYODO]* 6
  - Urges Joining Aviation Projects *[KYODO]* 7
- Firms Considering Hong Kong Work Voice Concern *[KYODO]* 7
- Taiwan Representative Urges MITI Head Visit *[KYODO]* 7
- Government Team Departs for Somalia 16 Dec *[Tokyo TV]* 8
- Hungary To Upgrade Military Ties With Tokyo *[KYODO]* 8
- Pakistan’s Sharif Arrives, Makes Statement *[Islamabad International]* 8
- Comprehensive Cooperation Plan With Canada Urged *[KYODO]* 9
- Automakers Step Up Production in South Africa *[KYODO]* 9
- UN Resolution on Security Council Reform Viewed *[Tokyo TV]* 10
- Focus on Miyazawa Bid To Regain Public Support *[KYODO]* 10
- Miyazawa Urges Attention to Womens’ Issues *[KYODO]* 11
- Prosecutors Begin Questioning Diet Members *[KYODO]* 12
- LDP Decides To Call Takeshita To Testify *[Tokyo TV]* 12
- Shin Kanemaru Leaves Hospital After Eye Surgery *[KYODO]* 12
- Postal Chief on Higher Tax-Free Savings Limit *[KYODO]* 13
- Posts Vice Minister Tenders Resignation 15 Dec *[KYODO]* 13
- Finance Minister Hayashi Interviewed on Rate Cut *[KYODO]* 13
- Nov 1992 Bankruptcies Rise From Nov 1991 Number *[KYODO]* 14
- Bank Governor Mieno Views State of Economy *[KYODO]* 14
- FY 1993 Budget Scale Set at 72.3 Trillion Yen *[KYODO]* 15
- Panel Urges Software Houses To Maintain Prices *[KYODO]* 15
- Government Panel Recommends Imitation Goods Ban *[KYODO]* 16
- New Environment Agency Chief Hayashi Profiled *[KYODO]* 16

North Korea

- Pyongyang Radio Reports Dispatch of UN Troops to Somalia 16
- Foreign Ministry Spokesman Comments on Japanese Talks *[KCNA]* 17
- Law on the Forests of the DPRK *[Pyongyang Radio]* 17
- Electric Power Output Increasing *[KCNA]* 20
  - Metal Industry ‘Streamlined’ *[KCNA]* 20
  - Coal Output Up *[KCNA]* 21

- IAEA Inspection Group Arrives in Pyongyang *[KCNA]* 21
- Trade Delegation Departs for Visit to China *[KCNA]* 21
- Kim Il-song Attends Martyrs' Families Meeting *[KCNA]* 21
- Vice President Meets Chairman of Japanese Investigation Group *[KCNA]* 22
- Yi Chong-ok Attends National Symposium on Kim Chong-il Work *[KCNA]* 22
- Intellectuals Meeting Continues 12 Dec *[KCNA]* 23
  - Kim Il-song, Kim Chong-il Photo Session *[KCNA]* 23
- Youth, Student Movement Denounce Team Spirit Resumption *[KCNA]* 24
- NODONG SINMUN Urges South To Cancel Team Spirit Exercise *[KCNA]* 24
- Pyongyang Radio Urges Cancellation of Team Spirit Exercise 24
- DFRF Berates South for 'Development of Nuclear Weapons' *[KCNA]* 26
- Trade Unions Protest South's 'Development of Nuclear Arms' *[KCNA]* 26
- KCNA Reviews 16 Dec Pyongyang Press 26
- Papers Mark Anniversary of Kim Chong-il Work on Obedience *[KCNA]* 27
- NODONG SINMUN Urges Clarification of 'Comfort Women' Issue *[KCNA]* 27
- NODONG SINMUN Dedicates Article to 'Day of Human Rights' *[KCNA]* 28

South Korea

- Russian Fishery Talks Scheduled for 21-26 Dec in Moscow *[YONHAP]* 28
- Bar Association Reports Decline in Human Rights Conditions *[YONHAP]* 28
- IAEA Starts Ad Hoc Nuclear Inspection of DPRK *[Seoul Radio]* 29
- Prosecution Begins Investigation of Pusan Mayor, Officials *[YONHAP]* 29
  - New Pusan Police Chief *[YONHAP]* 30
  - Pusan Meeting Tape Probe Set *[YONHAP]* 30
  - No Comments on 'Regrettable' Events *[YONHAP]* 30
- Presidential Candidates Address TV Audiences 12-13 Dec *[Seoul TV]* 30
- Kim Tae-chung Resigns Democratic Party Post *[YONHAP]* 31
- Election Committee To Use Abacus Instead of Computers *[YONHAP]* 32
- TONG-A ILBO Interviews Chong Chu-yong *[TONG-A ILBO 11 Dec]* 32
- Daily Predicts Impasse in Inter-Korean Dialogue *[THE KOREA HERALD 13 Dec]* 33
- D-Ram Exporters Propose Self-Control of Prices *[YONHAP]* 34
- Samsung Exports Communications Equipment to China *[YONHAP]* 34
- Imports Fail To Increase for First Time Since 1982 *[YONHAP]* 34
- Toy Industry Loses Price Edge; Sales, Scope Decline *[THE KOREA HERALD 15 Dec]* 34
- Police Say Hyundai Holds 56.54 Billion Won in 'Slush Fund' *[YONHAP]* 35
- Government 'Likely' To Open Additional CIS Embassies *[THE KOREA TIMES 13 Dec]* 35
- YONHAP Views 'Rare' DPRK Assembly Session 35

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Burma

- Khin Nyunt Meets UNHRC Representative 14 Dec *[Rangoon Radio]* 36
  - UNHRC Representative Departs *[Rangoon Radio]* 36
- Rebel Government Urges MP's To Boycott Convention *[London International]* 36
- Battling Opium Warlords Threaten Rangoon's Plans *[AFP]* 36
- Army Battalions Deploy Near Mae Sot *[Bangkok BANGKOK POST 12 Dec]* 37
- Agricultural Delegation Returns From Vietnam *[Rangoon Radio]* 37

Cambodia

- Khmer Rouge Abduct American, Other Peacekeepers *[AFP]* 38
  - KR 'Initially Being Cooperative' *[AFP]* 38
- Khmer Rouge's 30 Nov-6 Dec Truce Breaches Noted *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 38
- Hor Namhong Receives EC Parliamentary Delegates *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 39
- UNTAC Criticized at 10 Dec SNC Meeting *[Radio VGNUFC]* 39
- SRV Envoy's Attending SNC Meeting Questioned *[Radio VGNUFC]* 40
- Sihanouk Issues 'Political Terrorism' Statement *[Radio VGNUFC]* 41
  - Khieu Samphan, Son Sen Comment *[Radio VGNUFC]* 41
- Akashi Assures Sihanouk of UN Commitment 15 Dec *[AFP]* 42

Sihanouk Denies Plan To Take Over Power *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 42
Sihanouk Appeals for Food Aid To Fight Famine *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 42
UN Sanction Resolution Against DK Clarified *[Radio VGNUFC]* 43
Defense Ministry Spokesman on KR Offensives *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 44
Peacekeepers Said Redeployed to 'Sensitive Areas' *[AFP]* 44
Corruption Charges, Sihanouk, Security Viewed *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 45
CPP Gives UNTAC Ultimatum on Flags of Rivals *[AFP]* 46
Ranariddh on Factions' Provincial Representation *[AFP]* 47

Indonesia

Minister Views Trade Relations With Netherlands *[Jakarta Radio]* 47
Armed Forces Respond To Earthquake; Death Toll at 2,484 *[Jakarta Radio]* 48
    Quake Strikes South Sulawesi *[Jakarta Radio]* 48

Laos

Assembly Leader Inspects Election Preparations *[Vientiane Radio]* 48
Thai-Laos Border Cooperation Committees Meet *[Vientiane Radio]* 49

Philippines

NUC Recognizes Communist Representative for Talks *[MANILA STANDARD 16 Dec]* 49
NDF Declares Christmas Cease-Fire *[Manila Radio]* 50
CPP-NPA Propaganda Leader Surrenders *[Manila Radio]* 50

Thailand

Prasong on KR Sanctions, Burma Border Dispute *[Bangkok Radio]* 50
Minister Comments on Cambodian Border, Restoration *[Bangkok Radio]* 50
Supreme Commander: Cambodian Election To Be Held *[Bangkok TV]* 51
Paper Criticizes Foreign Minister on Khmer Rouge *[MATICHON 15 Dec]* 51
Army Commander Meets UNTAC Chief *[Bangkok TV]* 51
Agriculture Minister Defends Logging Concessions *[THE NATION 16 Dec]* 52
Army Warns Politicians Against 'Abusive Remarks' *[BANGKOK POST 15 Dec]* 52
Deputy Minister Defends Military *[Bangkok Radio]* 52
Minister Denies Intention To 'Humiliate' Military *[BANGKOK POST 16 Dec]* 53
Minister's 'Unfair Criticism' of Military Viewed *[THE NATION 16 Dec]* 54

Vietnam

Ministry Reacts to U.S. Lifting Restrictions *[Hanoi Radio]* 55
    AFP Reports Statement 55
    Hanoi Radio Comments 55
Hanoi Reports Delivery of MIA Remains to U.S. *[Hanoi Radio]* 56
Further Reportage on National Assembly Session 56
    Communique No 4 *[Hanoi Radio]* 56
    New Forestry Minister Approved *[VNA]* 56
    16 Dec Proceedings Reported *[Hanoi Radio]* 56
    Report on Mountain Regions *[Hanoi Radio]* 57
    Communique No 5 *[Hanoi Radio]* 58
VNA Cites UN Investigation of Cambodian Incident 58
Military Delegation Ends PRC Visit *[VNA]* 58
Armenian Vice President Concludes Visit *[VNA]* 58

AUSTRALASIA

Australia

Keating Promises 900 Troops for Somalia *[Melbourne International]* 59
Government Rejects 89 Cambodians as Refugees *[AFP]* 59
PRC-Launched Satellite Begins Operation 16 Dec *[AFP]* 59

Fiji

President Ganilau Resumes Office After Illness *[Melbourne International]* 59

Solomon Islands

PNG Soldier Defects, Alleges Atrocities *[Melbourne International]* 59

Japan

Miyazawa Asked To Make Rice 'Political Decision'

OW1512091892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0850 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 15 KYODO—An influential business leader urged the government Tuesday to consolidate domestic systems to prepare for the opening of Japan's rice market.

Takeshi Nagano, president of the Japan Federation of Employers' Associations (Nikkeiren), told a news conference the time has gone when Japan should discuss whether to open the rice market.

"Domestic systems have to be established as quickly as possible so that the rice market can be opened. It is too late to debate whether to open the (rice) market," he said.

Nagano visited the United States earlier this month for talks with U.S. officials, including former Ambassador to Japan Mike Mansfield, on domestic and foreign policies to be pursued by President-Elect Bill Clinton, who will take office in January.

U.S. officials were concerned that Japan's rice policy may rupture the Uruguay Round of world trade talks, he said, adding it is important for Japan to make a positive decision on the rice issue before the Clinton administration is sworn in.

Nagano appealed to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Monday to make a political decision on the issue, although lack of preparations may cause confusion on the domestic scene, he said.

LDP Panel Urges 'Tenacious' Stance on Rice

OW1512043492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0254 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 15 KYODO—A panel of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) agreed Tuesday to ask the government to take a "tenacious" negotiating stance regarding the rice trade issue at the Uruguay Round of global trade talks, LDP officials said.

They said the LDP committee on agricultural and fisheries products trade agreed in a meeting at party headquarters that Japan should continue to seek to have rice exempted from the proposed tariffication of farm trade barriers.

The proposal, made at the Uruguay Round being held under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), would lead to the eventual opening of Japan's rice market.

Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Minister Masami Tanabu and Kosuke Hori, the committee chairman, briefed the meeting on their recent trip to the United States and Europe to explain Japan's position on the rice issue, the LDP officials said.

They said many panel members voiced protests against Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's remarks to reporters last week that appeared to suggest Japan's readiness to accept the tariffication proposal.

Some members proposed that Japan try to mitigate mounting pressure for opening the rice market by making concessions to international demands for it to also open the legal trade to foreign lawyers, the officials said.

Farm Union Stages Protest March in Tokyo 15 Dec

OW1512094392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0603 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 15 KYODO—A major union representing Japanese rice farmers staged a 14-kilometer demonstration march in Tokyo Tuesday against moves to open the nation's rice market to imports.

The Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives (Zenchu), brought in some 50 tractors for the procession.

It was the first demonstration march held in downtown Tokyo to oppose the rice import liberalization—one of the major issues of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in Geneva.

Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa suggested on Saturday that Japan would accept a proposed tariffication of farm import barriers, telling reporters, "Japan must avoid being blamed for the collapse of the round."

Agricultural organizations have vowed to fight the measures.

The tractors used in Tuesday's demonstration were brought in from Tokyo and six prefectures in the Kanto region outside the capital.

Haruo Horiike, 38, a farmer in Atsugi City, Kanagawa Prefecture, said: "Miyazawa's comments are odd, given the three-time Diet resolution to oppose liberalization of rice imports."

Another rice farmer in Takasaki City, Gunma Prefecture, voiced anger, saying, "politicians are trifling with farming."

Farmers started the march from the Tokyo quay area of Harumi and passed through the crowded glitzy Ginza shopping district before reaching their destination—the Foreign Ministry and the Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Ministry.

Zenchu plans a similar demonstration with tractors in Tokyo on Wednesday as well as a rally with 10,000 farmers.

Farmers Rally To Oppose Opening of Rice Market

OW1612134292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1246 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 16 KYODO—About 10,000 farmers and members of civic groups staged a rally Wednesday in Tokyo to oppose the opening of the country's rice market as called for by the United States, European Community (EC) and other farm produce exporting countries.

The rally, organized by the eight-million-strong Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives (Zenchu), followed the earlier implicit suggestion by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa that Japan would accept rice tariffication, which has been proposed in the Uruguay Round of global trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The protesters opened the rally with chants rejecting the opening of the rice market and demanding protection for Japanese agriculture.

Among those at the rally were Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party's Policy Affairs Research Council, and Makoto Tanabe, leader of Japan's largest opposition party, the Social Democratic Party.

Mitsugu Horiuchi, head of Zenchu, said Japan does not need to change policies or allow imported rice.

He appealed to the prime minister to retract his earlier remarks indicating implicit acceptance of GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel's proposal to replace trade bans and barriers with tariffs, which would mean the opening of the rice market.

GATT is making every effort to bring the Uruguay Round to a conclusion by the end of this year since the U.S. and EC have settled long-standing and bitter disputes over EC farm subsidies and oil seed production.

EC's Andriessen Presses Tokyo on GATT Issue

OW1612064792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0622 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 16 KYODO—A top official of the European Community (EC) urged Japan on Wednesday [16 December] to make a political decision to help wrap up the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks, Trade Ministry officials said. They said EC External Affairs Commissioner Frans Andriessen was apparently referring to calls for Japan to lift its ban on rice imports.

The officials quoted Andriessen as saying it is time for all negotiating nations to make political decisions. In particular, he said, the three major players—Japan, the EC, and the United States—must do so to advance the talks, being held under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Andriessen made the comments in a meeting with International Trade and Industry Minister Yoshiro Mori, they said.

Referring to a political decision already made by the EC to end its dispute with the United States over farm export subsidies, Andriessen appeared to be pressing Japan to decide on the rice issue, they said. Japan is under intense pressure from the United States, the EC, and other farm exporting nations to accept replacement of its rice import ban with tariffs so as to help clear the way for a political conclusion of the trade round.

Andriessen expressed his wish to push the negotiations toward completion by Christmas, a deadline set by GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel, saying the EC may present product-by-product lists of proposed tariff cuts Wednesday, they said. Andriessen arrived in Japan on Wednesday for a three-day stay to discuss Japan-EC relations and prospects for the Uruguay Round talks.

Urges Replacing Ban With Tariffs

OW1612111192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1041 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 16 KYODO—The European Community's external affairs commissioner urged Japan on Wednesday to replace its rice import ban with tariffs but Japanese leaders explained the difficulties in doing so, Japanese officials said.

Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe told Frans Andriessen the Japanese Government would be unable to implement any promise to lift its ban on rice imports.

In a separate meeting with International Trade and Industry Minister Yoshiro Mori, Andriessen urged Japan to make a political decision to help wrap up the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks, apparently referring to calls for Japan to lift the ban on rice imports, MITI [Ministry of International Trade and Industry] officials said.

Andriessen, who arrived in Japan earlier in the day for talks on Japan-EC relations and to assess prospects for a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round, also met Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa but Foreign Ministry officials said they did not discuss the Uruguay Round.

During some two hours of talks with Watanabe, Andriessen called on Japan to ease open its rice market by accepting comprehensive tariffication—a process in which import bans or barriers are replaced by tariffs, the officials said.

Andriessen indicated that such a decision by Japan would help clear the way for a conclusion of the trade talks being held under the 108-member General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

But officials said Watanabe suggested to Andriessen that he does not think the necessary legislation needed to lift the rice import ban could be passed by the Diet.

"A negotiator should not commit himself unless he is sure that whatever he promises can be delivered at home," Watanabe was quoted as saying.

Watanabe told Andriessen comprehensive tariffication of agricultural goods would be "greatly difficult" for Japan.

Andriessen showed understanding for the difficulties Japan and South Korea face in accepting comprehensive tariffication due to the rice issue but nevertheless reiterated there should be "no exemptions" to the plan, the officials said.

Watanabe repeated Japan's position that there should be a balanced treatment of the three areas in the negotiations on agriculture—export subsidies, domestic support and border measures—without paying too much attention to any one of them.

Japan maintains that controls on agricultural exporters are too loose and export subsidies should be eliminated since they are most responsible for distorting agricultural trade.

Officials said Andriessen revealed for the first time that the EC Commission is finally planning to submit to GATT its illustrative list of concessions—a country list for industrial products.

They said Watanabe has been urging Andriessen to do so since April. The submission of the list is expected to make it possible for the EC and Japan to actively engage in market access negotiations on industrial products.

In the meeting with MITI Minister Mori, Andriessen noted it is time for all negotiating nations to make political decisions, MITI officials said.

The officials quoted Mori as saying Japan will cooperate with other countries toward achieving an agreement by the end of this year while noting there are difficulties on the part of Japan.

Andriessen told Mori the three major players in particular—Japan, the EC and the United States—must cooperate to advance the talks.

Referring to a political decision already made by the EC to end its dispute with the United States over farm export subsidies, Andriessen appeared to be pressing Japan to decide on the rice issue, they said.

Japan is under intense pressure from the U.S., the EC and other farm exporting nations to accept replacement of its rice import ban with tariffs so as to help clear the way for a political conclusion of the trade round.

Andriessen expressed his wish to push the negotiations toward completion by Christmas, a deadline set by GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel, saying the EC may present product-by-product lists of proposed tariff cuts.

Miyazawa and Andriessen agreed to promote cooperation between Japan and the EC to help settle world problems like the environment and assistance to developing countries, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Diet Members Warn Miyazawa on Rice Tariffication

OW1612044792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0340 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 16 KYODO—Junior Diet members in the Ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) formed a group to protect the farming industry Wednesday and said they will seek the resignation of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa if he opens Japan's rice market.

The group, comprising 32 LDP members who came into the Diet at the last election in February 1990, said they will unite to make the party keep to its pledge to maintain Japan's ban on rice imports.

The group, which has 33 longer-serving LDP Diet members serving as advisers, also said it will oppose any revision of domestic laws that would lead to the liberalization of the rice market.

Group leader Toshikatsu Matsuoka told the inaugural meeting, "the principle of politics is trust, and the basis of trust is a pledge. The LDP administration will be overturned if the party breaks its pledge and liberalizes the rice market without a full national consensus."

The move came against the backdrop of Miyazawa's remarks last Saturday widely taken to indicate the government's readiness to lift its ban on imported rice.

Miyazawa indicated that the government will have to accept the proposed conversion of the rice import ban into tariffs under the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

The prime minister said the global trade talks, held under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), have entered their final stage, and Japan must not spoil the talks.

The tariffication formula was proposed at the end of last year by GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel to help ensure a successful conclusion of the six-year-old world trade talks.

With the recent agreement between the United States and the European Community over farm subsidies, the long-simmering negotiations are nearing completion, and pressure is mounting against Japan to accept the tariffication proposal and end its policy of keeping foreign rice out.

Japan argues that it needs to ban imports in order to protect the domestic industry so as to safeguard supplies of rice, its staple food.

U.S. Criticism of Duty on Imported Pork Reported

OW1412104892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1014 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 14 KYODO—The United States and Canada have urged Japan to abolish its practice of imposing differential duties on imported pork in the Uruguay Round of world trade talks, Japanese Government sources said Monday.

According to the sources, the two countries criticized Japan for imposing such duties to maintain domestic pork prices, claiming that these are variable surcharges.

World trade partners are planning to convert variable surcharges on many products to ordinary custom duties in the Uruguay Round talks being held under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Japan's duties on imported pork should also be changed into ordinary duties, the two countries said.

Japan at present sets standard import prices for pork based on calculations with domestic market prices.

When imported pork prices, including the cost of insurance and freight, are lower than the government-set standard price, foreign pork exporters are charged the differences between the standard price and their products.

When the imported pork prices are higher than the standard price, the exporters are charged 5 percent of the prices as a tariff.

Japan's domestic pork is almost 1.5 times more costly than pork in Europe and twice as expensive as in the U.S., the sources said, adding that if the government agrees to change the import duties on pork it will certainly hit domestic pig breeders.

Japan's domestic demand for pork amounted to 1,458,000 tons in fiscal 1991, of which about 30 percent was imported.

Tokyo To Buy AWACS 'Despite' Defense Cuts

OW1612034192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0137 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 16 KYODO—The government is likely to slash 590 billion yen off its 22.75 trillion yen, five-year defense program, government sources said Wednesday.

The planned defense cuts spanning fiscal years 1991 through 1995 came after negotiations between the Finance Ministry and the Defense Agency, the sources said.

The plan, reflecting eased global tensions in the post-cold war period and tight domestic finances, will be approved by the cabinet on Friday, they said.

Current defense spending calls for the purchase of four U.S.-made airborne warning and control system aircraft known as AWACS and a multiple-launch rocket system, also U.S.-made.

The sources said the government will buy four AWACS as scheduled despite the planned cut in the mid-range program.

When the Defense Agency originally planned the midterm program, it expected to review it after three years, or in fiscal 1993.

Finance Ministry, DA Negotiate on Budget Cut

OW1612061192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0508 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 16 KYODO—The Defense Agency [DA] and the Finance Ministry are negotiating to trim some 600 billion yen from the midterm defense program, which totals 22.75 trillion yen, a senior Defense official said Wednesday.

Shigeru Hatakeyama, director general of the agency's Defense Policy Bureau, told a joint meeting of defense-related committees of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) that a plan to slash defense spending will be formally approved Friday by the cabinet after discussion at the National Security Council, headed by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

Earlier in the day, government sources said some 590 billion yen may be cut from the country's midterm defense buildup program, which covers fiscal 1991 to 1995. The cut reflects the easing of world tensions following the end of the cold war and tight domestic finances.

When the Defense Agency originally planned the five-year program, it expected to review it after three years, or in fiscal 1993.

But public calls for dramatic cut in defense expenditures have been growing following the end of the East-West confrontation. The tight domestic financial situation has also forced the government to make an early review of the defense plan.

Hatakeyama also told the session that the agency will ask the Finance Ministry to allocate a total of 114 billion yen in the fiscal 1993 budget, starting next April 1, to purchase two U.S.-made airborne warning and control system aircraft, known as AWACS. The midterm program provides for a total of four AWACS plans to be purchased.

The Fiance Ministry and other government ministries and agencies are now negotiating to compile the draft budget plan for fiscal 1993. The cabinet is scheduled to approve the government budget plan on December 26.

DA Asks 700 Million Yen for AWACS Budget

OW1612142992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1336 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 16 KYODO—The Defense Agency [DA] asked the Finance Ministry on Wednesday to appropriate an additional 700 million yen for the fiscal 1993 defense budget to purchase two U.S.-made airborne warning and control system (AWACS) planes, officials said.

The request follows a December 11 accord between the United States and Japan over the purchase of four AWACS planes by the end of 1995.

In August, the Defense Agency requested the appropriation of about 4.72 trillion yen in the fiscal 1993 budget, an increase of 3.6 percent from fiscal 1992.

The cabinet of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa will adopt the fiscal 1993 budget on December 26, the officials said.

The agency asked for 500 million yen for the purchase of the two AWACS and 200 million yen for training, maintenance and other costs related to the planes for fiscal 1993, which begins in April, they said.

The 700 million yen is just part of 114.7 billion yen which is the total cost for the two AWACS planes Japan will order from the U.S., the officials said.

The Defense Agency will incorporate the other two AWACS in the 1991-1995 national defense program worked out in December 1990.

Japan agreed with the U.S. on December 11 to purchase four AWACS planes after they settled on the price of the planes in a working- level meeting between the two countries.

AWACS can guide fighter planes and warships by pinpointing enemy planes and ships up to 400 kilometers away.

Kadena Denies Near Collision With Airliner

OW1612144592 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 16 Dec 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Text] On 15 December Kadena Air Base—part of the U.S. Air Force based in Okinawa—commented on a reported near collision made on 4 December by Nansei Airlines Flight No. 12 by announcing that the pilots of the jet fighters invloved sighted the civilian airliner but were not worried about a collision, so the encounter did not develop into a near collision situation. As regards this matter, the Safety Inspection Office of the Civil Aviation Bureau in the Ministry of Transport stated: "We have asked the U.S. Forces in Japan to identify the jet fighters, and the matter is now under investigation." Thus, the office seemed unaware of the contents of the U.S. announcement. A difference has been discovered between the U.S. announcement and the report by the pilots of the Nansei airliner.

According to the U.S. announcement, the 18th Wing is currently investigating the near collision miss reported by the pilots of the civilian airliner. The announcement also mentions that four F-15 fighters flew across the air route of the Nansei airliner at 1040 on the morning of 4 December. The announcement concluded that the pilots of the jet fighters sighted the civilian airliner, but reported no dangerous situation. The announcement added that according to the pilots, the "civilian airliner safely flew past the fighters, behind them and at a lower altitude."

Four F-15 fighters flew across the air route of Nansei Flight No. 12 when they ascended from an altitude of 10,000 feet to an altitude of 20,000 feet on their way to the Northern Training Corridor (W179) west of the main island of Okinawa. According to the announcement, the pilots "sighted Nansei Flight No. 12 and reported virtually no danger of air collision."

However, according to the report submitted by the pilots of the airliner to the Ministry of Transport, the Nansei airliner maneuvered to avoid the fighters when they pulled ahead of the civilain airliner, turned, and flew toward it. Thus there is a difference between the announcement and the report. While the report says the altitude of the jet fighters was slightly lower than that of the civilian airliner, the U.S. announcement says the altitude of the civilian airliner was lower than that of the jet fighters. This is another difference between the report and the announcement.

The Safety Inspection Office plans to ask the Air Control Bureau of Naha Airport to send radar data in order to identify the correct location of the two aircraft. The type of U.S. aircraft involved was disclosed by the U.S.

In January 1990, jet fighters on their way to W179 flew across the ordinary air route of a civilian aircraft on two occasions. At that time, the U.S. argued that no dangerous situation had occurred, and the Ministry of Transport labelled the two cases as nonnear collisions.

Russian Industrialist Volskiy Makes Visit

Meets With Trade Minister Mori

OW1512142192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1215 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 15 KYODO—A visiting Russian industrialist showed a positive stance Tuesday toward Japan's request for participation in the development of crude oil and natural gas resources around Sakhalin island, government officials said.

Arkadiy Ivanovich Volskiy, chairman of the All-Russia Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, gave the favorable response during his meeting with Yoshiro Mori, minister of international trade and industry, the officials said.

They said Volskiy and Mori exchanged views on issues centering on Japan's participation in the development project and Russia's arms exports.

Volskiy was quoted as telling Mori that he and new Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin share the view that Japan's Sakhalin Oil Development Cooperation Co. (SODECO) should be chosen as partner for the Sakhalin development project.

Chernomyrdin, whose selection as Russia's new prime minister was approved by the Russian Congress on Monday, was described as an oil and natural gas expert.

SODECO is a joint venture formed by the government and private enterprises to participate in the project. It had already been selected by the defunct Soviet Union as partner in the project.

Volskiy said SODECO's selection remains valid and the contract signed with the Soviet Union requires only a few minor changes, the officials said.

As for weapons exports, Volskiy called for conclusion of a multinational agreement banning arms trade, saying Russia's restraint in arms sales will only help weapons exports by other countries, the officials said.

Discusses Possible Yeltsin Visit

OW1612062492 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa has met with Arkadiy Volskiy, chairman of the All-Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, who is currently visiting Japan. The prime minister conveyed his view that Japan and Russia should make preparations to clear the way for President Boris Yeltsin to visit Japan in the near future. In this connection, Prime Minister Miyazawa said: I realize that Russia is currently facing difficult issues at home, such as the rebuilding of the Russian economy, but various preparations must be made between our countries to enable President Yeltsin to visit Japan. He then added: When President Yeltsin visits Japan, I would like to discuss various issues, including the Kurils issue and the issue of economic cooperation.

In response to Prime Minister Miyazawa's remarks, Chairman Volskiy said: I believe that preparations have begun for President Yeltsin's visit to Japan at the Russo-Japanese vice-ministerial talks currently being held in Moscow. He added: To prepare for the president's visit, the foreign ministers of both nations may exchange visits.

Comments on Preparations, Issues

OW1612062992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0444 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 16 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miwazawa told a visiting Russian industrial leader Wednesday [16 December] that he hopes to address economic issues as well as a territorial dispute when Russian President Boris Yeltsin visits Japan.

Miyazawa made the comment in a meeting with Arkadiy Volskiy, chairman of the Industrialists and Entrepreneurs' Union, which groups major companies.

"There is the bilateral territorial dispute that needs to be resolved, and we still need to enter a peace treaty," Miyazawa was quoted as telling Volskiy, who is in Japan to address a symposium.

"When president Yeltsin comes, I would like to resolve various problems, including economic issues," Miyazawa said.

Miyazawa expressed willingness to increase export insurance for oil and gas drilling equipment above the 700 million dollars agreed with Russia in September, the official said.

Japan has refused to extend full-scale economic assistance to Russia or agree to a peace treaty until the dispute is resolved over four islands off Hokkaido that were seized by the Soviet Army at the end of World War II.

Volskiy said that the vice foreign ministerial talks convening Wednesday in Moscow are preparing the way for the presidential visit, the official said.

The bilateral talks had been suspended since September, when Yeltsin abruptly canceled his scheduled visit to Japan.

Volskiy arrived Tuesday for a weeklong stay during which he will speak at a symposium and meet with Japanese business leaders.

In a separate meeting later in the day, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe told Volskiy that Japanese investors will remain disinterested in Russia if it does not take steps to improve the environment for investment.

Foreign Ministry officials said Watanabe also explained at length the assistance Japan has provided Russia in support of its reform program and for humanitarian objectives.

The foreign minister told Volskiy comparisons with the extent of aid provided to Russia by Germany are not valid since Germany attacked the Soviet Union during World War II, whereas Japan was attacked by the Soviet Union.

Watanabe asked Volskiy to make sure Yeltsin is made fully aware of the extent of Japanese assistance, the officials said.

Urges Joining Aviation Projects

OW1612143692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1355 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 16 KYODO—A visiting Russian industrialist on Wednesday urged Japanese participation in Russian aviation and aerospace projects.

Arkadiy Volskiy, chairman of the All-Russia Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, said in a speech in Tokyo he has brought with him a list of 32 projects in which Russian industry needs Japanese assistance.

Volskiy also welcomed the choice of Viktor Chernomyrdin as the new Russian prime minister.

Chernomyrdin is a seasoned politician who can pursue economic reforms while limiting their side effects, Volskiy said.

He also dismissed concern among Western countries that Chernomyrdin's replacement of Yegor Gaydar marks the end of Russia's economic reforms.

Volskiy said securing food and medicine that are in short supply and the conversion of military industries to commercial production are among the priority issues to be tackled in the process of the nation's transformation to a market economy.

Noting massive joblessness created as a result of the shift away from military-oriented industry, he called for Japanese cooperation to make it less painful for the Russian people.

The industrial leader also warned against a hasty solution to the nagging territorial dispute over four islands off Hokkaido, northern Japan, which has contributed to the icy relationship between Tokyo and Moscow during the postwar era.

Describing the issue as a vulnerable glass container that should be carefully handled, he called for "quiet" diplomacy between the two nations.

Firms Considering Hong Kong Work Voice Concern

OW1612113292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1013 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 16 KYODO—Japanese companies planning to join in building a new Hong Kong airport voiced concerns Wednesday over mounting Britain-China bickering on financing the giant project.

About one-fourth of the project's 2.2 trillion yen in orders are expected to go to Japanese companies, a major Japanese trading house official said.

But recently, Japanese bidders were shocked by a statement issued November 30 by China threatening that all contracts signed without its approval will be invalidated after Hong Kong's return to China in 1997.

The statement was made intentionally the same day Hong Kong airport authorities announced a 150 billion yen land-reclaiming contract signed with a six-nation consortium, including Japan's Nishimatsu Construction Co.

Nishimatsu, however, is one of the few lucky Japanese companies. The reclamation work will be completed before the reversion and payment is made on piecework system, said Sumio Nagase, head of the company's overseas operation.

Most contracts have not yet been awarded and many of those contracts will be completed after the reversion.

"Full-fledged business to sell construction materials and machinery is expected to start next year and the project's delay will greatly change the business," said an official at Marubeni Corp., a major Japanese trading house.

The dispute was triggered in October by Hong Kong Gov. Chris Patten's democratic reforms, primarily to the election system. The Chinese side reacted by calling Patten irresponsible

Britain and China are seen as engaging in political propaganda because of the transfer of Hong Kong but rejections of compromise proposals already have postponed many contracts for the project.

The current international airport is expected to reach capacity between 1994 to 1995 and the plan to develop an around-the-clock airport on reclaimed land between Lantau and Che Lap Kok is considered crucial for Hong Kong to remain an international business center even after its return to China.

Taiwan Representative Urges MITI Head Visit

OW1612144492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1233 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 16 KYODO—Taiwan's official representative in Japan on Wednesday called for an early visit by International Trade and Industry Minister Yoshiro Mori or other economic ministers to avoid a rift over Taiwan's increasing trade deficit with Japan.

Hsu Shui-teh said in an interview with KYODO News Service that Taiwan's trade deficit with Japan will reach a record 12 billion dollars in 1992. The two-way trade volume between Japan and Taiwan reached 28 billion dollars in 1991.

The head of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Japan said now is the best time for a visit by the MITI minister in order to prevent bilateral relations from deteriorating due to the trade imbalance.

Hsu pointed out that Japan is the only member of the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial nations that has not yet sent a cabinet member to pay an official visit to Taiwan.

"Taiwan also profits (from bilateral trade) by importing spare parts and machinery from Japan and exporting manufactured goods abroad," Hsu said.

Hsu said, however, that anti-Japan sentiment will grow in Taiwan if the trade balance goes further into the red.

Since Taiwan severed diplomatic relations with South Korea in August, when Seoul agreed to establish diplomatic relations with China, Taipei has tried to promote cabinet-level contacts with countries which have no full diplomatic ties with Taiwan. China considers Taiwan a renegade province.

Germany sent Economics Minister Juergen Moellemann to Taiwan for an official visit in mid-November—the first ever by a German economics minister.

U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills followed Moellemann later, becoming the first American cabinet member to visit the island after ties were severed in 1979.

Taiwan's top economic official Shirley W.Y. Kuo met with Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato in November in Tokyo, making the first open cabinet-level contacts 20 years after the separation of ties in 1972.

Taiwan has on several occasions voiced interest in a visit by the MITI minister, but former MITI Minister Kozo Watanabe did not respond.

Government Team Departs for Somalia 16 Dec

OW1612052792 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] A government investigation team departed Narita Airport today in connection with providing relief aid to refugees in the war-torn and poverty-stricken East African country of Somalia. The team consists of seven government officials headed by Yoshiji Nogami, councilor of the Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The team is scheduled to visit Somalia, Kenya, and Ethiopia from today to 24 December and exchange opinions with leaders of the three nations and representatives of international organizations. The team will also inspect camps accommodating Somali refugees. In this way, the team intends to figure out how Japan can contribute to helping the Somali refugees.

So far, the Japanese Government has provided Somalia with a total of $23 million (about three billion yen) in financial aid, which includes chartering planes for transporting food supplies there.

Hungary To Upgrade Military Ties With Tokyo

OW1212043892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0407 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 12 KYODO—Rudolf Joo, deputy state secretary of Hungary's Defense Ministry, said Saturday Hungary will open an office of Hungarian military attache in Tokyo by the first half of 1994 to promote its defense cooperation with Japan.

Joo, the ministry's third highest-ranking official, made the remark in an interview with KYODO News Service in a Tokyo hotel after capping his six-day unofficial visit to Japan.

Joo said vice Defense Agency Minister Akira Hiyoshi and other senior agency officials welcomed the prepared establishment of the attache office when he met them in Tokyo on Tuesday.

Joo quoted the senior agency officials as saying Japan will set up its attache office in Budapest on a reciprocal basis if a budgetary problem is resolved in future.

Hungary and Japan have considered exchanges of military personnel involving military officers and civilian defense experts, Joo said.

He said Hungary will take "some elements and aspects from Japan" to reshape the Hungarian military forces under civilian control after Hungary changed to a democratic country in 1989-1990. He did not elaborate.

Speaking about the 16-member North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Joo said NATO should carry out operations even outside its alliance to maintain peace and order in the world.

Joo said he favored continued U.S. military presence in Europe even after the end of cold war to prevent ethnic wars such as the one in Yugoslavia and help the European continent stable. [as received]

Pakistan's Sharif Arrives, Makes Statement

BK1612084292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, was accorded a warm welcome on arrival in Tokyo this afternoon on a four-day official visit to Japan at the invitation of his Japanese counterpart, Mr. Miyazawa. At the airport, he was received by the parliamentary vice minister, Mr. Koji Kakizawa and other cabinet high officials and representatives of Pakistani community besides the Pakistani ambassador. The prime minister is accompanied by a high-level delegation, including federal ministers, senior officials, and leading industrialists. In a statement on arrival, the prime minister said he was happy to note that their visit coincides with the commemoration of 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said the friendship between Pakistan and Japan has evolved over the past four decades into a mutually-beneficial relationship between the two countries. He said that Pakistan and Japan have similar perceptions on several issues of regional and global importance. He said he was looking forward to holding useful talks with the Japanese prime minister, Mr. Miyazawa, on international, regional, and bilateral matters.

Earlier, the prime minister was given a warm send off by the representatives of the Pakistani community and members of the staff of the Pakistani Consulate when he left Hong Kong this morning after a day's stay there.

Comprehensive Cooperation Plan With Canada Urged

OW1612143292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1148 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 16 KYODO—The Canada-Japan Forum 2000, an advisory group to both governments, urged the two countries Wednesday to work together to ensure the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial countries embrace a "core agenda" put forward by Japan and Canada on global security matters.

The group, established at the behest of the prime ministers of both countries in 1991, released a series of recommendations for cooperation between the countries and submitted it to Prime Ministers Kiichi Miyazawa and Brian Mulroney simultaneously in Tokyo and Ottawa on Wednesday.

The group, which brought together dozens of private and public sector leaders from both countries, spent more than a year examining the past and current relationships between Japan and Canada.

It has made a host of suggestions for cooperation in the future covering global, trade, cultural and environmental issues.

Among other significant recommendations are suggestions that the two countries work together to enhance economic cooperation among Pacific countries through the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum and the meetings of leaders from industrial countries and from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

At the private level, the panel's report urged working to bring scholars of the two countries into a "loosely structured" Pacific academy that would examine regional political and economic issues.

It called for forming a joint Japan-Canada Center for Conflict Prevention and Conflict Resolution that would bring political and international credibility to their peacekeeping efforts.

On the economic front, the forum suggested the countries work to attract business investment from both countries and work through APEC, the G-7 and other forums to enhance free trade and open economic systems.

In addition, it recommended that businesses from both countries become familiar with the business culture in each other and work to enhance access for business from each nation.

It also recommended forming a "resolution mechanism" that could work quickly to resolve any economic conflicts between Canada and Japan.

On global issues, the forum encouraged cooperation in world economic institutions such as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to ensure an international open trading system.

It also urged efforts to ensure that the North American Free Trade Agreement among Canada, Mexico and the United States does not become an exclusionary trade bloc.

The forum suggested that the two countries to cooperate on environmental issues and "cold-country" problems related to the North Pacific and Arctic regions.

They also should work together to ensure the growth of human rights and help for refugees around the world, the panel said.

Culturally, the two countries should establish a Japan-Canada Fund for Mutual Understanding that would lead to long-term exchanges and collaboration among artists from both nations, the forum said.

They also should develop teaching materials for use in both countries that accurately reflect modern realities in each nation, introduce the arts from each country to the other, increase tourism between them and promote joint film projects, the group recommended.

Automakers Step Up Production in South Africa

OW1512115092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0726 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 15 KYODO—Three major Japanese automakers have stepped up production in South Africa to meet expected growing demand following the lifting of economic sanctions, the companies said Tuesday.

Toyota Motor Corp., Japan's top automaker, said it has launched production of its Camri passenger model as the successor to the Mark II at its subsidiary, Toyota South Africa Manufacturing Ltd.

Company officials said sales of the Mark II, assembled in the country with components shipped from Japan, have declined because it is two generations old.

The officials said marketing of the Camri will help boost the company's sales in the country almost 10-fold next year to about 52,000 units from about 5,200 this year.

Mazda Motor Corp., an affiliate of Ford Motor Co. of the United States, said it has switched knockdown car production in the country from Capella to Chronos, which was launched in Japan last year as Capella's successor.

The Hiroshima-based company said no model changes have been made on the Capella since production began in 1983 under a license agreement with local automaker South African Motor Corp. (Samcor).

Its sales totaled 3,600 in 1991, down from 13,000 in 1984, company officials said.

Mazda's production, including commercial vehicles, totaled 23,000 in 1991.

Japan's No. 2 automaker, Nissan Motor Co., said its subsidiary Nissan South Africa Pty. also has stepped up production now that Pretoria has abolished its policy of racial segregation known as apartheid.

The company said the South African subsidiary began to produce the subcompact passenger model Pulser in May as a replacement for the old model Sunny, while boosting the production volume of its 3,000 cc luxury type Maxima to 6,000 a year.

The company said it plans to manufacture 18,000 Pulsers annually.

Company officials said demand in the South African car market is expected to rise to 400,000 units in 1995 from about 308,000 in 1991.

UN Resolution on Security Council Reform Viewed

OW1412125992 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] On 11 December, the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution introduced by Japan, India, and other nations calling for the reform of the UN Security Council's structure. In response to this, the Japanese Government says that it plans to win a permanent seat on the Security Council by seeking foreign nations' understanding through contributions to UN peacekeeping operations.

The resolution calls on UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali to work out a proposal based on various nations' demands for the structural reform of the Security Council. It also calls on Butrus-Ghali to present his final decision to a UN General Assembly session to be held next autumn.

In connection with the UN resolution, the Japanese Government is welcoming its unanimous adoption by the General Assembly, saying it marks an important step toward Japan's becoming a permanent member of the Security Council. In cooperation with the Third World nation of India, which also is seeking a permanent Security Council seat, the government intends to create an international atmosphere in which the Security Council's reform is considered an urgent task in the post-cold war era. Moreover, the government intends to seek foreign nations' understanding of Japan's bid to win a permanent Security Council seat by making positive contributions to UN peacekeeping operations in Cambodia and by providing humanitarian aid to former Yugoslavia and Somalia.

If Japan becomes a permanent member of the Security Council, it will inevitably be forced to play a more important role in dealing with regional disputes. Therefore, some government officials have expressed the view that it is necessary to review existing laws concerning international contributions. The key to the government's future moves concerning the extent of Japan's contributions to the new international order lies in future trends in public opinion.

Focus on Miyazawa Bid To Regain Public Support

OW1212063892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0524 GMT 12 Dec 92

["News Focus" by Takehiko Kajita]

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 12 KYODO—The lineup of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's second cabinet attested to his strong desire to establish his leadership within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and also to recapture eroding public support.

Political analysts said the breakup of the LDP's biggest faction offered a rare chance for Miyazawa to remove what he calls "the ill effects of factionalism" and show his leadership in tackling numerous foreign and domestic issues.

Since taking office in November 1991 with the backing of the troubled faction founded by former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, Miyazawa has been under fire from both within and without the governing party for his alleged lack of leadership.

The public has increasingly given up on Miyazawa as the huge money-and-mobster scandal centered on the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co. trucking firm unravels. Miyazawa's efforts to get to the bottom of the scandal have been perceived by the public as poor at best.

A KYODO News Service poll shows public support for his cabinet plummeted to 16.1 percent in early December, down from 31.4 percent in October.

To wipe away the ever-deepening public distrust of politics, Miyazawa aimed in Friday's cabinet shakeup at getting rid of factionalism and picking ministers mainly on merits so he can push ahead with long-coveted political reform, according to sources close to Miyazawa.

His appointment of popular politician Yohei Kono as chief cabinet secretary, former top government spokeswoman Mayumi Moriyama as education minister and experienced old hand Masaharu Gotoda as justice minister apparently worked in boosting the image of the cabinet, some political analysts said.

After the cabinet reshuffle, Miyazawa reportedly said to one of his aides, "it was tough and painful to make my own administration. I felt really lonely for the past several days."

With the new lineup, Miyazawa may have secured a freer hand in managing key political issues. But it also means he will have to shoulder greater responsibility than ever as a "full-fledged" prime minister.

What lies ahead for the second Miyazawa cabinet are such pressing issues as international pressure for the opening of Japan's rice market, sweeping political reform, as well as the revival of the economy and a solution of the bilateral territorial dispute with Russia.

Furthermore, many political analysts said most of the new appointments ended up being distributed as usual, in accordance with the factional balance. They cite this as further evidence of the deep-rooted factionalism within the conservative party.

A key test for Miyazawa's second cabinet will come if the prime minister calls for a general election next year. Should Miyazawa fail to exert his leadership, he will face an uphill battle in the de facto referendum, the analysts said.

In a move to throw down the gauntlet to the new cabinet, the opposition camp blasted Miyazawa for having tried to hush up the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scandal.

Sadao Yamahana, secretary general of the No. 1 opposition Social Democratic Party, described the cabinet as the one "intended to cover up the Sagawa affair based on backroom negotiations among ruling party factions."

Yuichi Ichikawa, secretary general of Komeito, questioned the reshuffle itself. "Before reshuffling the cabinet, he has things to deal with such as the investigation of the Sagawa scandal."

He also said the days of the Miyazawa administration, one of the least popular Japanese Governments in recent memory, "are already numbered."

Rei Shiratori, professor of political science at Tokyo's Tokai University, said Miyazawa succeeded in giving cabinet posts to those who can share his views.

"Mr. Miyazawa is a kind of person who realizes his ideals through people whose way of thinking is close to his, rather than seeking public support," he said.

Shiratori doubts that Miyazawa has the political know-how to finesse his initiatives through the Diet without the backing of a cabinet lineup assuring him of success.

Miyazawa Urges Attention to Womens' Issues

OW1212104392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1023 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 12 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa asked his chief of staff Yohei Kono Saturday to pay special attention to women's issues in an effort to eradicate gender biases.

"The prime minister when he appointed me as representative of women's issues said the status of women and their involvement in society are greatly increasing, and that he would like me to further improve the environment for this," Kono said at a news conference.

There is no written description for the new job assignment, but Kono said that he would like to see more women in executive positions, and greater opportunities for women to have their voices heard.

Kono, chief cabinet secretary, cited Miyazawa's naming Education Minister Mayumi Moriyama to his second cabinet as an example of the more active women's policy.

"It is necessary to create an environment where we can eliminate as early as possible the view that gender can be used as an excuse," Kono said.

Meanwhile, Moriyama expressed dissatisfaction that she was the only woman appointed to the 20-member cabinet, but said it was "better than nothing."

Moriyama, who in 1989 became the first woman to serve as chief cabinet secretary, said that it will take some time before women are regularly included in the cabinet.

"First the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and opposition parties have to increase the number of women parliamentarians," she said at a news conference after being selected for her second cabinet post Friday.

She is the first woman ever to be given a second cabinet position.

Moriyama is one of three LDP dietwomen in the House of Councillors. There are no LDP dietwomen in the House of Representatives, from which most cabinet members are selected.

There are a total of seven women in the 512-member House of Representatives and 13 in the 252-member House of Councillors.

Moriyama said that while women are not necessarily given posts each time the cabinet is ritually reshuffled, the occasional appointment is "progress."

Miyazawa did not include any women in his first cabinet. His predecessor, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, appointed one woman to his last cabinet in 1990.

Prosecutors Begin Questioning Diet Members

OW1212125592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1230 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 12 KYODO—Prosecutors began questioning members of the Diet Saturday to trace the flow of a 500 million yen illicit donation former political kingpin Shin Kanemaru received from a parcel delivery company at the center of a money-and-mobster scandal, informed sources said.

Those questioned were House of Representatives members who belong to what was once the largest faction in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), founded by former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, the sources said.

The Tokyo district prosecutors office began the questioning following the close of the extraordinary Diet session Thursday.

Prosecutors have already questioned Kanemaru and about 10 unsuccessful candidates from the Takeshita faction.

Kanemaru, former chairman of the faction, testified under oath that he did not know how the money was spent because his top aide, Masahisa Haibara, handled the cash.

Testifying Friday as a sworn witness to the lower house's budget committee, Haibara admitted he received the money on Kanemaru's behalf from Hiroyasu Watanabe, dismissed president of Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., before the general election in February 1990. But he refused to say how he dispersed it, saying that to do so could make him subject to criminal charges.

Haibara reportedly told prosecutors that he handed the money to Kanemaru's political group and distributed it to some 60 candidates from the Takeshita faction for campaign funds.

Prosecutors summarily indicted Kanemaru in September on charges of violating the Political Funds Control Law. The law limits a politician to receiving 1.5 million yen in political donations from any individual or corporation in a single year. Kanemaru paid a 200,000 yen fine without being questioned or standing trial.

Kanemaru resigned as vice LDP president in August and from the Diet in October.

The prosecution concluded its investigation after a summary indictment against Kanemaru but resumed it after oppsition party members and lawyers filed complaints to prosecutors urging the prosecution of the unidentified parliament members who allegedly received some of the illicit funds from Kanemaru.

LDP Decides To Call Takeshita To Testify

OW1512144092 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] During today's meeting of the executives of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP]—held for the first time since the cabinet reshuffle—a decision was made to receive testimony from former Prime Minister Takeshita, who testified before the latest Diet session as a sworn witness. During the meeting, LDP Secretary General Kajiyama said: Prime Minister Miyazawa told the latest Diet session that the LDP would conduct an independent probe into the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scandal. The prime minister has also proposed putting an end to the Takeshita case; the LDP called him in to explain one way or another to the LDP his feelings about and the circumstances surrounding this case. The meeting endorsed Mr. Kajiyama's proposal to call Mr. Takeshita.

The LDP leadership plans to summon Mr. Takeshita to testify before a meeting of the LDP executives scheduled for next week; Mr. Kajiyama will convey the decision to Mr. Takeshita this afternoon. The LDP leadership also decided to receive testimony from former Prime Minister Takeshita because the opposition maintained that suspicions involving the Takeshita case have further deepened following his testimony before the latest Diet session. Since the opposition plans to launch a fresh probe into the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scandal when an ordinary Diet session is opened next January, it is expected to react against the LDP's independent probe into the scandal.

Shin Kanemaru Leaves Hospital After Eye Surgery

OW1612051092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0402 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Kawasaki, Kanagawa Pref., Dec. 16 KYODO—Shin Kanemaru, former ruling party power broker who was driven out of politics in October for his involvement in a money-and-mobster scandal, was released from hospital Wednesday.

Kanemaru, 78, entered the hospital in Kawasaki, south of Tokyo, on December 7 after undergoing eye surgery in another hospital in Kanagawa Prefecture where he was questioned by members of a Diet panel about his role in the scandal.

Kanemaru resigned from the Diet and retired in October after admitting he had received 500 million yen in illegal contributions from Hiroyasu Watanabe, former president of Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin, a now-defunct parcel delivery company.

During questioning at his hospital bedside, Kanemaru said under oath that Susumu Ishii, the late leader of a crime syndicate, helped halt a rightist group's harassment campaign against former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita in 1987, when Takeshita was running for the presidency of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). Winning the post enabled Takeshita to become prime minister.

Watanabe, who is on trial for aggravated breach of trust involving loans and loan guarantees, is said by prosecutors to have acted as a go-between for senior LDP figures and the gangsters.

Postal Chief on Higher Tax-Free Savings Limit

OW1112143792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1346 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—Newly appointed Posts and Telecommunications Minister Junichiro Koizumi on Friday ruled out the need for an early raise in the tax-free postal savings limit for the aged, the disabled and fatherless families.

He also told reporters shortly after his appointment that the present postal savings system requires an overhaul.

This remark came as a great shock to senior officials of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, who have pushed actively for a raise from 3 million yen to 7 million yen in the savings limit with the support of the majority of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) tax panel.

Koizumi said the tax-free postal savings for the aged and welfare for the aged should not be confused. Thus, the existing ministry policy is not good, he said.

The ministry has traditionally worked to boost postal savings in competition with commercial banks under the existing system.

Koizumi said he will put the national interests before the interests of his ministry.

The position of Koizumi, who was parliamentary vice finance minister and chairman of the House of Representatives Finance Committee, is close to that of the Finance Ministry, which has been traditionally critical of the expansion of postal savings.

Shortly after Koizumi's press remarks, senior Postal Ministry officials, including the vice minister, met for consultations and their talks continued until late night.

Posts Vice Minister Tenders Resignation 15 Dec

OW1512095092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0536 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 15 KYODO—The parliamentary vice minister of posts and telecommunications said Tuesday he has tendered his resignation over policy disagreements with the new minister.

Takashi Sasakawa told reporters he has submitted his resignation to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, citing disagreements with Posts and Telecommunications Minister Junichiro Koizumi.

The dispute stems from Koizumi's rejection of a plan to raise the tax-free postal savings limit for the aged, disabled, and fatherless families from the current 3 million yen, and his proposal to reform the postal savings system, ministry officials said.

On being appointed to his post last week, Koizumi expressed opposition to the proposed raise in the tax-free savings limit.

Before Koizumi was appointed to his post, the ministry had been promoting plans to raise the tax-free ceiling on a priority basis.

Sasakawa said his conscience prevents him from remaining in his post.

Government sources suggested, meanwhile, that Prime Minister Miyazawa supported Koizumi's position on raising the tax-free limit, saying it would benefit only the rich.

Miyazawa told reporters he has not accepted Sasakawa's resignation.

Miyazawa said he will not accept resignations from parliamentary vice ministers unless their ministers recommend it.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono said the posts minister has not requested the cabinet to dismiss Sasakawa.

Finance Minister Hayashi Interviewed on Rate Cut

OW1212131392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1259 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 12 KYODO—New Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi said Saturday he sees little possibility the Bank of Japan will cut its key interest rate in the near future.

Hayashi, who was sworn in as the finance minister Saturday, said in an interview with KYODO News Service that careful attention has to be paid to whether the present economic environment requires an interest rate cut. He said, however, it is a matter to be decided by the central bank.

He said he is opposed to an income tax cut financed by issuing debt-financing government bonds, saying it would not stimulate personal consumption because the extra income is expected to flow into savings.

Hayashi said he will study a revision of the tax system, including readjusting the proportion of direct and indirect taxes and a possible hike of the 3 percent consumption tax, as part of a comprehensive review of the social security system.

He pledged that the ministry will work out measures to stimulate stock trading.

Nov 1992 Bankruptcies Rise From Nov 1991 Number

OW1412061692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0432 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 14 KYODO—The number of business failures with liabilities of 10 million yen or more in November rose 19.6 percent from a year earlier to 1,328 cases, the highest this year, a private credit agency said Monday.

Teikoku Data Bank Ltd. said the figure also was also up 2.6 percent from the previous month and that it topped year-earlier figures for the 26th consecutive month since October 1990.

The combined debt of the bankrupt companies totaled 821.64 billion yen in November, up 13.2 percent from the same month last year and up 8.1 percent from October.

The number of companies that went broke in the January-November period stood at 12,713, and, at the present rate of increase, the figure will surpass 14,000 for the full year, the agency said.

These included the collapse of Tokyo-based real estate and securities broker Nihon Tritrust Co. with debts of 120 billion yen and MCG Co., another real estate concern owing 100 billion yen.

Others to go down were Hoei Tochi Kaihatsu Co. with debts of 67 billion yen, Koei Home with 37 billion yen, and Osaka-based Nikken Kikaku Co. with 35 billion yen. The three companies were involved in real estate or the construction business.

By industry, the number of construction businesses to go bust rose 22.7 percent from a year earlier to 254 cases, in manufacturing the figure jumped 47.1 percent to 225, and for retailing there was a 29.7 percent rise with 249 companies going broke.

The number of bankrupt service companies grew 12.5 percent to 144 and insolvencies of transportation and communications companies leaped 42.9 percent to 50, the agency said.

In the real estate business sector, however, the number of bankruptcies dipped 2.8 percent from the same month last year to 103.

Bank Governor Mieno Views State of Economy

OW1612091992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0836 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 16 KYODO—Bank of Japan (BOJ) Governor Yasushi Mieno said Wednesday [16 December] the third quarter gross national product (GNP) figures and the central bank's quarterly survey of business confidence clearly reflect the severity of Japan's economic conditions.

Mieno told reporters, however, that the "road to recovery" is still in sight as signs of recuperation are beginning to appear.

He said the gloomy statistics have not changed his views on the economy, dismissing the possibility of an immediate official discount rate cut as prices are stable.

Japan's GNP in the July-September period contracted by an annualized 1.6 percent from the previous quarter to mark the first setback since the second quarter of 1989, while the BOJ's "tankan" business survey released earlier this month showed that business confidence has weakened to the worst level since the first oil shock in mid-1970s.

Mieno said severe conditions in the economy are continuing but the Diet's passage of the supplementary budget for this fiscal year, and lower fund-raising costs among corporations will likely lead to recovery.

The passage of the budget was the key to full implementation of the government's 10.7 trillion yen pump-priming package announced in August. Long-term prime rates were lowered last month, while banks moved to cut their short-term prime rates earlier this month.

Concerning reports indicating that banks are limiting access to the prime rates, given to the most creditworthy clients, so that small and medium-sized companies may not benefit from the rate reductions, Mieno said it is exclusively up to each bank to decide who receives their most favorable rates.

Turning to the hotly debated issue of fixed-amount postal savings, the central bank chief hoped the existence of state-run financial institutions and their instruments "will not hinder liberalization of interest rates in the private sector."

Mieno suggested such state-run businesses should gradually adapt to the market mechanism.

Interest rates on fixed amount postal savings are set in relation to the official discount rate and such savings offer higher long-term yields than bank deposits.

Commercial banks claim it goes against the general trend to liberalize interest rates and there is a tendency for funds to flow into postal savings when market interest rates are on the decline.

Referring to a proposal by a government advisory panel about disclosure by banks of their nonperforming loans, Mieno said further efforts of disclosure are necessary and as early as possible.

The advisory body to the finance minister recommended that all banks report on their loans extended to firms that have sought legal protection from creditors, starting with financial statements for the current fiscal year.

As for major commercial banks, the panel recommended that they disclose loans on which no interest has been paid for six months or more. It made no such recommendation for regional and second-tier regional banks.

Mieno said he feels such a distinction is necessary at the beginning considering the special characteristics of regional banks.

On the issues of liberalization in the financial industry, Mieno said that in principle, the reforms must aim to achieve competitiveness within the industry but some "realistic" considerations may be necessary.

The proposed reforms include allowing institutions to enter different sectors of the financial business through their subsidiaries, possibly starting next April.

Mieno's comment came in response to a question as to what he thinks of media reports that some sectors of the financial industry may be allowed to get a head start in setting up such new businesses.

FY 1993 Budget Scale Set at 72.3 Trillion Yen

OW1612145892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1432 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 16 KYODO—The Finance Ministry has decided to increase the next fiscal year's budget by a scant 0.1 percent from the initial budget for the current year to 72.3 trillion yen, ministry sources said Wednesday.

The negligible growth, which is being forced by a drawn-out economic slump that is dampening tax revenues, is the lowest since zero expansion in fiscal 1987.

The general operating expenditure, the core of the budget which finances such key government policies as defense, social welfare, and foreign aid, will amount to around 40 trillion yen in the new fiscal year, starting next April.

The sum translates into just over 3 percent growth over fiscal 1992, the lowest since a 3.3 percent growth in fiscal 1989.

The other components of the budget—debt-servicing costs and grants to local governments—will be also pruned under the ministry's austere expenditure stance amid the economic stagnation.

Despite reduced spending elsewhere in the budget, public works investments will enjoy a solid 4.8 percent rise to 8,565 billion yen, as the government strives to enliven the anemic economy.

The massive public works outlays are also in line with the government's avowed policy of upgrading the national quality of life over the coming years.

The ministry's draft fiscal 1993 budget will be adopted at a special meeting of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's cabinet on Monday before the ministry holds final negotiations with other government agencies.

On the revenue side, the ministry's fiscal 1993 budget expects 61.3 trillion yen in tax revenues, about 1.2 trillion yen less than those projected in the initial fiscal 1992 budget.

The shrinking tax income is chiefly due to the absence of major tax hike plans for the New Year, which will probably see a general election.

The proposed tax reforms for fiscal 1993, such as stiffer taxes on red-ink companies, are expected to produce only 60 billion yen in additional income to the state coffers.

To make up for the insufficient tax revenues, the ministry will issue about 8 trillion yen worth of construction bonds, up 700 billion yen from the initial fiscal 1992 budget.

The ministry also expects a record 2.7 trillion to 2.9 trillion yen of nontax income from contributions from the Bank of Japan and other sources.

Confronted with such a severe climate, the ministry will curtail budgetary requests made by government agencies earlier this year by some 700 billion yen to keep the general operating outlays to 40 trillion yen.

The ministry will also reduce debt-financing costs to some 15 trillion yen by delaying repayments of parts of its debts due in the next fiscal year. Falling interest rates also contributed to the decreased debt-servicing expenditures.

Grants to local governments, funded by parts of national taxes such as income and corporate taxes, will also total around 15.5 trillion yen.

To keep them below fiscal 1992's 15.77 trillion yen, the ministry will ask the Home Affairs Ministry to allow it to cut such payments by 500 billion yen in addition to natural decreases resulting from dwindling tax revenues.

Panel Urges Software Houses To Maintain Prices

OW1112134792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1248 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—An advisory panel to the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) on Friday adopted a proposal urging software houses to refrain from price-cutting on their products in order to keep the market sound, ministry officials said.

The information industry group of the Industrial Structure Council proposed that major Japanese computer makers adopt new in-house business guidelines which include a policy of self-support system for their software sector, by spring 1993.

The proposal said the software industry has difficulty securing able human resources as wages are inadequate, reflecting the widespread thought in Japan that software is simply an add-on to hardware in the acquisition of computer systems.

The panel will also request that the government conduct an investigation of "improper" sales of software, such as selling at extraordinarily reduced prices.

It also intends to call for establishment of a tax system which would promote expanded investment in software development.

When purchasing computer systems, governmental agencies should also adopt a bidding system which evaluates possible future costs of software change in addition to the hardware price, according to the proposal.

Government Panel Recommends Imitation Goods Ban

OW1412125092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1204 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 14 KYODO—An advisory body to the trade minister called Monday for measures to ban imitations of branded or even unbranded goods and for tougher penalties with a view to protecting intellectual property.

The Committee on Intellectual Property Policies under the Industrial Structure Council of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry made the proposal, ministry officials said. The panel is reviewing ways to tighten up the unfair competition prevention law, which currently covers only the plagiarizing of trademarks, the officials said.

In line with the proposal, the ministry plans to submit a revision bill to the next regular Diet session to bring the revised law into effect in 1994.

Newly categorized as unfair competition practices by the committee are imitations of goods like toys and tableware, unauthorized use of famous brand names, and misleading descriptions of the quality and nature of services, the officials said. The revised law will enable wronged persons or companies to seek prohibition of such practices and claim compensation for damages, even if the affected products or services are not registered as intellectual property like trademarks, they said.

The committee proposed raising the maximum penalties under the law as well as imposing additional weighted penalties on corporations. Maximum fines for individuals could be raised from the current 500,000 yen to 1.5 million to 3 million yen, while those on corporations would go up to some 100 million yen in line with the Antimonopoly Law, related sources said.

New Environment Agency Chief Hayashi Profiled

OW1112114192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1128 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—Taikan Hayashi, new director general of the Environment Agency, who is taking up his first cabinet post, aimed at becoming an agricultural leader before entering politics.

Hayashi, 70, wanted to be a leader in the agricultural community when he was a student at Komigawa Agricultural School in Chiba Prefecture.

After leaving the agricultural school, he became a Komigawa town assembly member in 1951 and an official employed by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in 1957. He was elected to the House of Representatives from Chiba Prefecture in December 1972.

Hayashi became secretary general of the LDP's Special Security Committee in 1960 when Japan renewed the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty in the face of strong protests by opposition parties and the public.

He also held the posts of parliamentary vice minister in the Defense Agency and parliamentary vice minister in the Transport Ministry.

Hayashi belonged to the faction led by the late Ichiro Nakagawa, a senior LDP member who once served as agriculture minister, before joining the faction led by Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe.

He has been elected to the lower house six times.

North Korea

Pyongyang Radio Reports Dispatch of UN Troops to Somalia

SK1612022292 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] According to a report, on 3 December the UN Security Council adopted a resolution on dispatching to Somalia multinational armed forces to guarantee relief goods supply. Such a step by the UN Security Council is related to Somalia's recent tragic situation. The report said that in Somalia, more than 300,000 people were killed last year because of the civil war, and some two million people are suffering from starvation.

In a meeting last August, the foreign minister of this country appealed to UN organizations and all humanitarian organs of the world to provide the starving Somalian people with relief goods. The efforts, however, by the United Nations and international organs to relieve the Somalian people have failed to reach the starving people because of the country's civil war.

According to a report, almost half of the foodstuffs supplied to Somalia this year were plundered or looted before they were supplied to the starving people. In an effort, therefore, to cope with such a situation in Somalia, the UN Security Council has taken a step to guarantee the supply of relief goods by dispatching multinational armed forces to Somalia.

As a result of this step by the UN multinational armed forces, including some 1,800 U.S. Marine troops, the armed forces began controlling Mogadishu port and airport on 9 December. Contingents from Britain, France, Italy, and Belgium left for Somalia to participate in these relief operations. It is said that approximately 40,000 military troops from some 10 different countries will participate in the relief operations. Among the troops, 28,000 are from the United States.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Comments on Japanese Talks

SK1612110292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1048 GMT 16 Dec 92

["Normalization of DPRK-Japan Relations Depends on Attitude of Japanese Government"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 16 (KCNA)—A spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry gave the following answer to a question put by KCNA Tuesday about the false rumor spread by the Japanese authorities these days with regard to the DPRK-Japan talks:

According to a foreign press report on December 12, Japanese Prime Minister Miyazawa and Foreign Minister Watanabe respectively told reporters in Tokyo that North Korea would find itself in a difficult position unless the DPRK-Japan talks were resumed, that it would have to propose a solution to break the deadlock in the near future and that a way would be opened to solve the impasse in the negotiations if it removed "the uncertainty over nuclear development" voluntarily.

It is, indeed, ridiculous if they truly let out such unreasonable remarks.

The Japanese authorities' statements were intended to whitewash the unjust stand they had taken at the 8th DPRK-Japan talks by spreading false rumors.

Already at the 8th DPRK-Japan talks our government delegation clarified through a statement its firm stand that it would not sit at the negotiating table with the Japanese side as long as the latter brought up unreasonable "preconditions."

There will be no change in this principled stand of ours in the future.

Whether relations are normalized between our country and Japan, or not entirely depends on the attitude of the Japanese Government.

Law on the Forests of the DPRK

SK1412101192 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 11 Dec 92

["The Law on Forests of the DPRK" adopted at Fourth Session of Ninth Supreme People's Assembly held in Pyongyang on 11 December—read by announcer]

[Text] **The Law on Forests of the DPRK**

Chapter One: Basis of the Law on Forests

Article 1: The Law on Forests of the DPRK shall contribute to implementing the state policy on forests by strictly establishing rules and order in creation and protection of forests and in utilization of forest resources.

Article 2: Forests of the DPRK include lands of forests and animals, plants, and resources in forests. Only the state can possess forests.

Article 3: According to their missions [samyong], forests are classified as special protection forests; general protection forests; timber forests; economic forests; and firewood forests.

Article 4: The general plan for forest construction is a unified and comprehensive plan for forest construction designed to create, protect, and manage forests and to reasonably utilize forest resources in compliance with the development of the national economy and promotion of the people's welfare.

The state shall establish the general plan for forest construction in an active and dynamic manner and shall precisely execute the plan.

Article 5: It is a consistent policy of the state to carry out the creation of forests on an all-mass scale. The state shall encourage all people to actively participate in the work of creating forests and shall enhance the role of professional enterprises for forest creation.

The state shall designate forests which organizations, enterprises, and groups will be in charge of and shall see to it that they create and manage their forests in a responsible manner.

Article 6: The state shall establish a forest protection system and encourage the people to voluntarily participate in forest protection work by intensifying education on socialism and patriotism among the people.

Article 7: The state shall correctly formulate an order for the utilization of forest resources and ensure that forest resources are utilized comprehensively and reasonably.

Article 8: The state shall actively introduce successes in modern science and technology, accelerate modernization and scientification of forest management, and systematically increase investment in forest management domain.

Article 9: The state shall actively develop scientific and technological exchanges and cooperation with many nations in the forest management sector.

Chapter Two. Creation of Forests

Article 10: Creation of forests is a nature-remaking project for the nation's prosperity. National land management organizations, forest management organizations and organizations, enterprises and groups that possess designated forests, shall carry out forest creation projects with a view to the future so that economic effectiveness of forests be enhanced and per-unit volume of forest resources be increased.

The Administration Council shall ratify forest creation plans for major areas.

Article 11: The state shall designate a tree-planting month in order to carry out timely, massive and intensive forest creation.

The Administration Council shall be in charge of the work of designating the tree-planting month.

Article 12: The state planning organizations shall correctly establish plans for tree-planting and caring for planted trees and shall precisely assign the plan to pertinent organizations, enterprises, and groups.

Organizations, enterprises, and groups that received plans for tree-planting and caring for planted trees, shall complete tree-planting within the designated period and shall responsibly conduct the caring for planted trees.

Article 13: The design for tree-planting shall be prepared by forest designing organizations and relevant designing organizations. The forest designing organizations and relevant designing organizations shall investigate and analyze forest products, climate and soil conditions in forest building areas, and shall design tree-planting so that timber forests, forests with raw materials of fabrics, oil-bearing forests, fruit-bearing forests, and firewood forests be expanded by remaking unusable forests.

Article 14: National land management organizations, forest organizations, and organizations, enterprises and groups that possess the assigned forests shall establish a correct seed gathering system and breeding system, and build nursery tree production bases. They should increase nursery tree production so that the tree-planting plan be implemented.

Procurement of tree seeds shall be conducted by national land management organizations and forest organizations.

Article 15: National land management organizations, forest organizations, and organizations that possess assigned forests, shall inspect seeds of trees and nursery trees to be used in forest building.

Tree seeds and nursery trees which are not passed in inspection shall not be used for forest building.

Article 16: Tree-planting shall be conducted in accordance with the tree-planting design. Organizations, enterprises, groups, and public citizens should plant trees according to the demand of tree-planting design.

Article 17: Organizations, enterprises, groups, and public citizens that planted trees should ensure the rate of life of planted trees according to a designated standard by cultivating and caring for planted trees.

Article 18: National land management organizations, forest organizations, and relevant organizations, enterprises and groups should plant and cultivate herbs in a pre-planned manner within assigned forest areas so that forest resources be increased.

Chapter Three. Protection of Forests

Article 19: Protection of forests is an important work for increasing forest resources. Organizations, enterprises, groups, and public citizens should participate in the work of protection and management of forests with deep interest in protection of forests worthy of masters.

Article 20: The state shall designate a forest-fire prevention period in a bid to prevent fire damages to forests. The Administration Council shall be in charge of the work of designating a forest-fire prevention period.

Article 21: Organizations, enterprises, groups, and public citizens should have permission from relevant organizations in the event that they make a fire in a forest district and its border. They shall not be allowed to go into a forest district without permission carrying materials with which they can make a fire.

Article 22: National land management organizations, forest organizations, and relevant organizations, enterprises, and groups should designate forest-fire prevention areas and should take appropriate steps lest forest fires break out by establishing a forest-fire surveillance system.

Organizations, enterprises, and groups in an area where forest fires break out should timely extinguish forest fires by compulsorily mobilizing manpower, facilities, and means required for extinguishing forest fire.

Article 23: National land management organizations, forest organizations, and relevant organizations, enterprises, and groups should establish a system for the prior observation of harmful forest insects and should remove generated harmful forest insects in a timely fashion.

Without permission of the relevant organization, one shall not be allowed to take out trees, grass, and soil from the forest area where harmful insects are generated.

Article 24: Forest science research institutes and relevant organizations, enterprises, and groups should conduct research on and introduce highly effective agricultural medicine, biological methods, and modern technological equipment to eradicate harmful forest insects.

Article 25: Without permission of the relevant organization, organizations, enterprises, groups, and public citizens shall not be allowed to build roads, buildings, or facilities within a forest area. They should not carry out acts of hindering the work of protecting forests, including reclaiming hills, excavating soil, and quarrying within forest areas.

Article 26: National land management organizations, forest organizations, relevant organizations, enterprises, and groups, shall conduct erosion control and riparian works in a planned manner and normally repair and maintain their facilities so that they can protect forests from natural disasters such as heavy rain and landslides.

Article 27: National land management organizations and forest organizations shall preserve typical forest ecological areas and protect and proliferate rare animal and plant resources in natural forest protection districts. When it is deemed necessary to protect and proliferate animal and plant resources in such districts, although certain districts do not come under the category of natural forest protection districts, pasturage of domestic animal, and hunting and gathering of animals and plants may be prohibited in relevant forest districts for a certain period.

Article 28: Organizations, enterprises, groups, and public citizens shall provide the conditions for beneficial animals and plants to grow well in forest districts and actively protect and proliferate them.

Chapter Four. Utilization of Forest Resources

Article 29: To use forest resources reasonably is an important demand to accelerate socialist economic construction and improve the people's living. National land management organizations and forest organizations shall specifically survey and control forest resources status, and use forest resources in an effective and planned manner.

Article 30: A permit for use of forest land shall be given by the Administration Council or relevant national land management organizations. The Administration Council and relevant national land management organizations shall permit its use after examining the purpose and justification for using forest land.

Article 31: Logging in a rotating manner is a reasonable method to increase timber resources and normalize log production. The relevant organizations shall formulate a general plan for logging in a rotating manner based on survey data of forest resources, correctly execute it, and endlessly increase timber production.

Article 32: A permit for cutting down trees shall be given by National land management organizations and forest organizations. National land management organizations and forest organizations shall give the permit for cutting down trees only to the units which received from the state a plan for cutting down trees. The permit for cutting down trees to guarantee creation and management of forests, research for forest science, and conveniences of the residents' living such as firewood, may be given without the plan for cutting down trees.

Article 33: Trees cannot be cut down without a permit for cutting down trees. Organizations, enterprises, and groups which receive the permit for cutting down tree shall abide by rules stipulated in the permit for cutting down trees.

Article 34: Trees, which are cut down, can be carried out only when a pass for carrying out trees, which is issued by the relevant organization, is presented. Logs supplied in compliance with the state plan can be carried out without a pass for carrying out trees.

Article 35: In the event forest resources such as trees, turf, herbs, and wild fruits are cut down, picked, and gathered, a permit shall be obtained from the relevant organizations. The details such as time, place, method, and quantity as specified in the permit shall be followed.

Article 36: Organizations, enterprises, groups, and public citizens shall put cut-down trees into use in conformity with the relevant purpose according to the plan of forest, land, and state, on which basis the permit for use is given, and shall not transfer the cut-down trees to other organizations, enterprises, groups, or individual public citizens.

Article 37: Organizations, enterprises, groups, and public citizens who will hunt wild animals and wild birds shall obtain a permit from national land management organizations and abide by rules for a hunting order as stipulated.

Article 38: In the event organizations, enterprises, groups, and public citizens will export to other countries or import to our country wild animals, wild birds, and seeds and specimen of forest plants, they shall obtain an approval from the relevant organizations.

Chapter Five. Guidance and Control of Forest Management

Article 39: The state's unified guidance of forest management shall be conducted by the Administration Council. The Administration Council shall correctly formulate a guidance system for forest management and normally guide the work for nationwide forest management well.

Article 40: The state shall conduct the work for forest management in compliance with a general plan for forest construction. The general plan for nationwide forest construction shall be ratified by the Administration Council.

Article 41: National land management organizations and relevant organizations shall survey forest resources, normally register their utilization and change status, and organize and control the work of utilizing forest resources. Organizations, enterprises, and groups which manage forests on their own shall submit on time the data which the relevant organizations demand.

Article 42: The state planning organizations, labor administration organizations, material supply organizations, agricultural guidance organizations, financial and banking organizations, and local government organizations shall strengthen material and technological foundation in forest sector and guarantee labor, facilities, material, and fund necessary for creation, protection, and management of forest.

Article 43: Educational organizations, scientific research organizations, and relevant organizations in forest sectors shall bring up more able scientific technological personnel, strengthen scientific research work, actively introduce ultramodern scientific technological achievements, and solve scientific technological problems arising in creation, protection, and management of forests.

Article 44: Supervision and control of forest management shall be conducted by national land management organizations and relevant supervising and control organizations. National land management organizations and relevant supervising and control organizations shall create forests under the principle of cutting down one tree and planting ten trees. They shall normally inspect, supervise, and control forest management so that they can prevent damages due to forest fire, blight, harmful insects, landslides, reclamation of forests and land, and careless, secret felling of trees, and correctly maintain an order for utilizing forest resources.

Article 45: In the event a tree-planting plan and a plan for caring for planted trees were not executed and in the event the survival ratio of planted trees was not guaranteed, the utilization of forest resources shall be suspended.

Article 46: In the event hills are excavated without a permission, their restoration to original status shall be done or a penalty shall be imposed. Products illegally acquired, and tools and means used for illegal acts shall be confiscated.

Article 47: In the event responsible functionaries of organizations, enterprises, groups, and public citizens cause grave consequences by violating rules for creating, protecting, and utilizing forests, such as not executing a tree-planting plan, oe do not guarantee the survival ratio of planted trees, carelessly and secretly fell and gather forest resources without permission, or cause a forest fire, they shall bear administrative or criminal responsibilities depending upon the gravity of the violations.

Electric Power Output Increasing

SK1612110892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1012 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 16 (KCNA)—The electric output is on the increase in the DPRK.

According to Yu Yong-jik, director of the power station guidance bureau of the State Commission of Power Industry, the electric output in the first eleven months of this year was 5.2 percent up on that in the same period last year.

In this period, the Taedonggang power complex, the Kanggye youth power station, the Hochongang power station and many other power stations fulfilled their yearly production assignments.

The vast investment of the state and the devoted efforts of the power station builders have resulted in consolidating the nation's power bases. The east Pyongyang thermal power plant has been built and partially put into operation, the construction of the December thermal power plant, the Namgang power station, the Yongwon power station and other large power stations is in progress and many minor hydraulic power stations have cropped up in all parts of the country.

The DPRK Government has long since built solid power production bases by giving definite priority to the power industry in the national economy and promoting the construction of large power stations and that of minor power stations in parallel, with the building of the hydraulic, thermal and atomic power stations well combined.

The Changjagang, Kanggye youth, March 17, Taedonggang, Thaechon and many other hydraulic power stations and lockgate power stations, the Pyongyang, Pukchang, Chongchongang and other thermal power stations and minor power stations have taken shape in different parts of the country. The annual electric output increased to 55.5 billion kwh in 1989 from 16.5 billion kwh in 1970.

Much effort is constantly directed to the construction of power stations along with the production of electricity to meet the growing need of the national economy for power.

Metal Industry 'Streamlined'

SK1512000992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1504 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 14 (KCNA)—The productive foundation of metal industry has been further strengthened and its processes are being streamlined fast in the DPRK.

According to Yi Hyo-sang, director of the scientific and technological guidance bureau of the Ministry of Metal Industry, new production units such as electric furnace, revolving furnace and high-pressure pipe shop have been built and put into operation at iron and steel works including the Kim Chaek iron and steel complex, the Songjin steel complex and the Hwanghae iron and steel complex.

And 100 odd valuable technical innovation proposals have been introduced for the modernisation of production pronesses.

Iron and steel production is going up. The output of rolled steel in November was 16.9 percent up on the previous month.

In this period: The Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex boosted the rolled steel output 25,800 tons and the Songjin steel complex 4,600 tons.

The metal industry of Korea whose development started nearly from scratch after the war has consolidated its productive foundation now to turn out large quantities of special steel of various kinds, ordinary steel, standardized steel and goods of second-stage metal processing and reliably guarantees socialist economic construction.

The government of the Republic has directed big efforts from many years ago to the building of an independent and modern metal industry.

In this course large-size iron and steel works and smelteries took shape [word indistinct] Kim Chaek, Chongjin, Songnim, Munchon, Pyongyang and many other places of the country.

In the period after 1980, modern metal production bases such as the Pyongbuk smeltery and the Hyesan steel plant have been constructed and commissioned. The yearly steel output has reached 7,000,000 tons.

Coal Output Up

SK1212111392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1038 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 12 (KCNA)—The coal output is on the increase in Korea.

The Sunchon, Anju, Tokchon, Pukchang, Kaechon and other coal mining complexes in South Pyongan Province, the nation's main coal fields, are the pace-setters in coal production.

According to data available, the coal output at those mines at the end of November was 1,842,000 tons above that in the same period last year.

The Sunchon district coal mining complex, a leading high caloric coal production base of the country, has lifted coal output to a high level by giving a definite priority to tunneling and earth-scraping and securing enough reserve coal fields.

The Sinchang coal mine of the complex had increased coal output more than 220,000 tons by the end of November as against the comparable time last year.

The Tokchon district coal mining complex had produced 370,000 more tons of coal by November 15 than in the same period last year by introducing a new cutting method.

The Pukchang district coal mining complex had turned out 45,000 more tons by the end of November than in the like period last year by introducing a belt-conveyer in carriage.

The June 13 coal mine, the Kocham coal mine and other coal mines in the northern area of the country hit the tunneling target of 300 metres a month at each cutting face through a high-speed tunneling drive to create scores of reserve coal-cutting sites.

The coal output at the Onsong district coal mining complex over the recent one month was 24,000 tons up on the previous month.

IAEA Inspection Group Arrives in Pyongyang

SK1412112892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1103 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 14 (KCNA)—The fifth irregular inspection group of the International Atomic Energy Agency led by Heiki Saukonen arrived in Pyongyang today.

Trade Delegation Departs for Visit to China

SK1512114192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1058 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 15 (KCNA)—A government trade delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea led by Kang Chong-mo, vice-chairman of the External Economy Commission, left here today for a visit to China.

Kim Il-song Attends Martyrs' Families Meeting

SK1612012192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2208 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 15 (KCNA)—A national meeting of martyrs' families was held in Pyongyang in October.

The great leader President Kim Il-song met with the participants in the meeting and had a picture taken with them.

President Kim Il-song, with a sense of obligation to the revolutionary soldiers who laid down their lives for the country and the people, has shown deep loving care for their families.

He said:

"We should pay special attention to the upbringing of the bereaved children of patriotic martyrs and rear them into fine workers who can carry forward the revolution."

In the rigorous period of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, he took warm care of the children of the martyrs at children's corps schools in the guerrilla bases.

Fifty six years ago, he made new clothes for the children's corps members at the Maanshan guerrilla base with 20 won left to him by his mother Kang Pan-ok and he covered a sick member of the children's corps with his only blanket. The Korean people tell this story about his loving care like a legend.

Busy as he was with the building of a new country after the liberation, he took care that the Mangyongdae revolutionary school was constructed near his old home and the children of the martyrs were brought from different parts of an alien land and educated.

During the fatherland liberation war (1950-1953), he built nurseries and primary schools for orphans in different parts of the country to bring up the children of the martyrs at state expenses.

He has also shown deep loving care for the parents of the martyrs.

He kindly looked after Cho Kil-pu, mother of comrade Ma Tong-hui, an anti-Japanese revolutionary fighter, for nearly 40 years. When she died at the age of 90, he felt sorry that she could not live for 100 years and saw that the title of hero of the DPRK was awarded to her.

When he visited a farm village in Chungsan County after the cease-fire, he met with an old man whose family and relations of scores of persons had been killed by the enemy. Deeply considerate of the old man's sorrow, the president changed the programme of his on-the-spot guidance and stayed with the old man one night to console him.

His deep loving care for the revolutionary soldiers has been fully inherited by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

In high appreciation of the exploits and revolutionary spirit of those who devoted their lives to the noble cause of the country and the revolution, Comrade Kim Chong-il granted them the noble titles of "revolutionary martyr" and "patriotic martyr" and called their families "families of revolutionary martyrs" and "families of patriotic martyrs."

He guides the families of the martyrs to carry forward the revolutionary cause as creditably as their parents did and takes care that they lead a worthy life, enjoying special trust and solicitude from the state and society.

A large number of those families have grown to be heroes, deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly and leading officials of the revolution and are playing an innovative role in the revolution and construction.

Vice President Meets Chairman of Japanese Investigation Group

SK1412115992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1051 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 14 (KCNA)—Vice President Yi Chong-ok today met and had a friendly talk with the international fact-finding group headed by Guy Dupre, chairman of the international investigation committee on the wartime crimes of old Japan.

Present there was O Mun-han, chairman of the committee of measures for compensation to "comfort women for the army" and victims to the Pacific war.

Yi Chong-ok Attends National Symposium on Kim Chong-il Work

SK1512054092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2258 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 14 (KCNA)—A national symposium on the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's immortal classical work "*On the Fundamental Questions of Revolutionary Party Building*" was held at the People's Palace of Culture here today. It was attended by Yi Chong-ok, Politburo member of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and vice-president, Kye Ung-tae, Politburo member and secretary of the C.C., the WPK, officials concerned, party officials of central organs and Pyongyang municipality, People's Army servicemen and public security men, teachers of party cadre training organs and other educational institutions, researchers, journalists, editors, and men of culture and art.

The speakers said the dear leader's work is an encyclopedia consummating all the theoretical and practical questions in the cause of the building of the revolutionary part of the working class in the present time and a great textbook of party building to constantly consolidate and develop the revolutionary party of chuche.

They said in the work the dear leader gave clear analysis of the fact that the ruling parties under socialism have collapsed in some countries because they failed to lay their solid organisational and ideological foundations and the mass foundation and to maintain the revolutionary principles in party building and activities and establish juche.

The fundamental factor decisive of the existence of ruling parties under socialism, the party's oganisational and ideological foundations, and be firmly laid only through a fierce struggle against the class enemies within and without under the guidance of the leader and through a sustained, strenuous and stubborn efforts to strengthen the party organisationally and ideologically the speakers said, and continued:

The uniformity of the idea and leadership, they said, can remain true when it is carried forward generation after generation and can it be successfully ensured only when an outstanding leader is acclaimed as the heir to the leader. The lesson taught by the international communist movement proves it an immutable truth that when an outstanding leader is not acclaimed to carry forward the resolution, it is impossible to guarantee the uniformity of the idea and leadership, the party is destroyed and the revolution is ruined.

The speakers said that to defend the revolutionary character of the party is an important matter concerning the existence of the party and its might.

For its revolutionary character, the working-class party has an invincible might and becomes a vanguard organization which fights it out for the cause of independence of the popular masses fundamentally different from all other parties.

Thy said that the work is a great inspiring banner vigorously arousing the revolutionary parties and people of the world to a struggle to strengthen international unity and solidarity

The speakers said that all the officials, party members and working people should strengthen the Workers' Party of Korea in every way, carry to accomplishment the revolutionary cause of juche under the guidance of the party and consolidate and develop our- style socialism with the might of singlehearted unity, no matter which way the wind may blow.

Intellectuals Meeting Continues 12 Dec

SK1212082592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0448 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 12 (KCNA)—The Korean intellectuals meeting continued on December 12 amid the keen interest and expectation of the party and the people.

The floor was taken by Choe Kwang-yol, first deputy director of the Kim Il-song higher party school; "Kim Il-song prize" laureate, labour hero, people's doctor, Prof. and Dr. Sin Song-u, director of the Hamhung traumatic and orthopedic hospital; Pae Min-ok, deputy director of the literature and art press group; Yi Chi-su, president of the Academy of Chuche Science; Chong Ha-chol, chairman of the DPRK Radio and TV Broadcasting Committee; Chon Chang-man, head of the arts and crafts production of the Central Art Studio; "Kim Il-song prize" laureate and Dr. Han Ung-sik, director of the Institute of National Reunification; Pak Pong-chu, chief secretary of the Party Committee of the Namhung Youth Chemical Complex; and people's actor Kim Chun-sik of the Korean film studio.

The speakers said the historic meeting, the first of its kind in Korea, would powerfully demonstrate the validity and vitality of the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea toward intellectuals and bring about a radical turn in encouraging the entire intellectuals to defend and glorify our socialism centred on the masses.

The basic cause of the frustration of socialism in some countries is that the socialist movement was not based on a correct guiding idea, they said, stressing that the intellectuals of Korea should comprehensively and deeply study and grasp the profound and original principles and theories of the chuche idea, more vigorously propagandize them and positively contribute to the movement of reconstructing socialism and the human cause of independence.

All the scientists and technicians of Korea who have grown under the care of the party and the leader should deeply cherish as their faith the party's slogan "We serve the people" and solve the problems which are wanted by the party and which await an immediate solution in practice one by one while giving a good account of themselves in scientific and technical work of their specialization.

The intellectuals of Korea should discharge their vanguard mission and role in more dynamitally advancing the movement for national reunification under the banner of chuche, they said, and stressed: The intellectuals in the North and South and overseas should all be fighters in the struggle to implement the North-South agreement and reunify the country in accordance with the proposal for founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo.

A congratulatory group of the workers and agricultural working people entered the meeting hall and recited a congratulatory message to the Korean intellectuals meeting.

The meeting continues.

Kim Il-song, Kim Chong-il Photo Session

SK1212114292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1103 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 12 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il today had a picture taken with delegates participating in the Korean intellectuals meeting.

The delegates enthusiastically welcomed President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il with cheers of "hurrah!"

Present on the occasion were O Chin-u, member of the presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and minister of people's Armed Forces; Kang Song-san, Politburo member of the C.C., the WPK and premier of the Administration Council; Yi Chong-ok and Pak Song-chol, Politburo members of the C.C., the WPK and vice-presidents; Kim Yong-nam, Politburo member of the C.C., the WPK, vice-premier of the Administration Council and foreign minister; Choe Kwang, Politburo member of the C.C., the WPK and chief of general staff of the Korean People's Army; Kye Ung-tae, Chon Pyong-ho and Han Song-yong, Politburo members and secretaries of the C.C., the WPK; So Yun-sok, Politburo member of the C.C., the WPK, chief secretary of the South Pyongan Provincial Party Committee and chairman of the South Pyongan Provincial People's Committee; Choe Tae-pok, alternate Politburo member and secretary of the C.C., the WPK; Kim Tal-hyon, alternate Politburo member of the C.C., the WPK, vice-premier of the Administration Council and chairman of the State Planning Commission; Choe Yong-nim, alternate Politburo member of the C.C., the WPK, vice-premier of the Administration Council and minister of metal industry; Kim Chol-man, alternate Politburo member of the C.C., the WPK; Hong Song-nam, alternate Politburo member of the C.C., the WPK and vice-premier of the Administration Council; Yon Hyong-muk, alternate Politburo member of the C.C., the WPK, chief secretary of the Chagang provincial party committee and chairman of the Chagang Provincial People's Committee; and Kwon Son-hwi, vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan who is heading the delegation of Korean intellectuals in Japan.

President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il highly praised the delegates who have creditably fulfilled their revolutionary tasks in the ideological and cultural, scientific and technical fields and performed brilliant feats in the revolution and construction, loyal to the party's leadership, and posed for a photograph with them.

Youth, Student Movement Denounce Team Spirit Resumption

SK1512010292 Pyongyang KCNA in English
2310 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 14 (KCNA)—A spokesman of the North sides headquarters of the National Alliance of Youth and Students for the county's reunification issued a statement on December 13, denouncing the U.S imperialists and the South Korean authorities for impeding the implementation of the inner-Korean agreement by deciding to resume the criminal "Team Spirit" joint military manuevers.

The South Korean authorities, in collusion with the United States, have decided to resume the "Team Spirit" which was suspended before the adoption of the inter-Korean agreement and are staging large-scale war exercises one after another under various games, thus lying obstacles for the implementation of the inter-Korean agreement, the statement notes, and continues:

This clearly shows that the South Korean authorities have neither competence of an independent dialogue partner to discuss the question of national reunification nor willingess to faithfully implement the inter-Korean agreement in keeping with the desire of the entire nation and people for reunification and the demand of the times.

On the first anniversary of the adoption of the historic inter-Korean agreement, the statement demands that the United States refrain from obstructing the reunification of Korea and immediately withdraw from South Korea, taking along all its weapons of destruction including the nuclear arms and that the South Korean authorities cancel at once the decision adopted with the United States to resume the war game and sincerely implement the inter- Korean agreement.

The statement ardently calls on the South side' headquarters and the overseas headquarters of Pomchonghangnyon and the entire youth and students to more valiantly turn out in the nationwide struggle to smash all the obstruction of the separatist forces at home and abroad and urge the sincere implementation of the inter-Korean agreement.

NODONG SINMUN Urges South To Cancel Team Spirit Exercise

SK1512113792 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1057 GMT 15 Dec 92

["NODONG SINMUN Denounces South Korean Authorities for Neglecting Implementation of Inter-Korean Agreement"]

[Text] Pyongyang December 15 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comes out with a commentary denouncing the South Korean authorities for neglecting the implementation of the North-South agreement.

Pointing out that the Korean people are greeting the first anniversary of the adoption of the inter-Korean agreement with concern over the destiny of the North-South dialogue and agreement, the analyst says:

This is because the South Korean authorities are laying a grave obstacle to the implementation of the agreement by deciding to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises against the North together with the United States.

We urge the South Korean authorities once again to discard the idea of dependence upon outside forces and take an independent stand so that the inter-Korean agreement may bear fruits, the agreement which the whole nation hail and support, hoping for its early implementation.

The South Korean authorities are raising a hue and cry over the "suspicion of nuclear development" by the North and contending that they are compelled to resume the war exercises because of this. But this is virtually a deception and a far-fetched argument.

The nuclear row raised by the South Korean authorities against the North is nothing but a deceptive ruse to conceal and step up their development of nuclear weapons and nuclear war provocation moves.

If the South Korean authorities have the least intention to respect the North-South dialogue and the inter-Korean agreement, they must take a measure to withdraw their decision to resume the "Team Spirit" joint manoeuvres before it is too late as justly demanded by us.

We will in the future, too, survive with all sincerity to promote the peace in the country and its reunification by honestly implementing the historic inter-Korean agreement.

If the South Korean authorities continue along the road of wrecking North-South dialogue and violating the inter-Korean agreement in conspiracy with outside forces, ignoring our just demand and warnings, they will have to bear full responsibility for all the consequences arising from this.

Pyongyang Radio Urges Cancellation of Team Spirit Exercise

SK1412102692 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Commentary by station commentator Yun Pyong-son: "A Stubbornness That Cannot Be Understood"]

[Text] The people at home and abroad are now strongly calling on the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities to withdraw their decision to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise, while worrying over the rupture in the North-South dialogues caused by it.

The South Korean authorities do not, however, show any sign of resuming the North-South dialogue, which is at a crisis of rupture, and of withdrawing their decision to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise. Instead, they are very challengeable.

According to reports, a so-called spokesman for the South side to the North-South high-level talks, in his telephone notice, said that the Team Spirit joint military exercise cannot be suspended unless the North shows its sincerity in resolving the nuclear issue, expressing that this exercise is a so-called defensive one.

This shows the criminal attempt of the South Korean authorities as it is they who are to conduct, without fail, the Team Spirit joint military exercise next year, using the nuclear inspection issue as a pretext.

It is a well-known fact that the Team Spirit war exercise is one aimed at invading the North. A great many troops—which include the U.S. aggressive soldiers from its mainland and its overseas bases, U.S. soldiers occupying South Korea, and South Korean puppet soldiers—and a great amount of ultramodern war equipment, which includes nuclear weapons, will be mobilized into the exercise. With these troops and this equipment, they will conduct for several months the exercise that fully assumes the North is their target for attacks. Therefore, how can it be a defensive one?

Judging from its nature, size and armed mobilization, this exercise must be a thorough war exercise to invade the North. They say that the exercise is a defensive one. This is nothing but a sophistry to hide its aggressive nature and to cheat the people at home and abroad.

What we cannot overlook is their remarks that they cannot suspend the Team Spirit joint military exercise, using the nuclear inspection issue as a pretext. The South side is totally responsible for delaying nuclear inspections.

As is known, what we have consistently asserted in the North-South nuclear inspection is that we conduct the overall inspection of U.S. nuclear weapons and its nuclear bases in South Korea. These nuclear weapons and nuclear bases are basic factors that pose a nuclear threat to the Korean peninsula. This is a very just demand to completely eliminate a nuclear threat and to thoroughly realize the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

The South Korean authorities are desperately opposing inspection of U.S. nuclear weapons and its nuclear bases in South Korea, while insisting on their unjust position that the so-called inspection of equal numbers of sites, special inspection, and inspection of general military bases should be conducted.

Now that U.S. nuclear weapons are hidden in South Korea and the South Korean authorities are secretly developing nuclear weapons, it is clear to everyone that denuclearization cannot be thoroughly realized through inspection of equal number of sites, special inspection, or inspection of ordinary military bases. [namchosone migukui haengmugiga sumgyojo ikko namchoson tanguki haengmugilul pimillie kaebalhago innun hyonsijomeso tongsusachallina tuksusachal ilban kunsagiji sachallosonun pihaekhwalul cholchohi silhyon halsuoptanun koson nuguegena myongbaekhan sasillimida].

As shown by above-mentioned facts, the South Korean authorities are delaying nuclear inspection. In addition, they insist that they cannot suspend the Team Spirit joint military exercise by picking a quarrel with us. This is like a thief turning on the owner.

The South Korean authorities are picking a quarrel with us, using the nuclear inspection issue as a pretext. This is nothing but an excuse to rationalize the resumption of the Team Spirit joint military exercise, which has no justification due to the adoption and effectuation of the North-South agreement.

They are insisting that they cannot suspend the Team Spirit war exercise. This is basically aimed at further deteriorating the North-South relations and, furthermore, at provoking the northward invasion war by conducting the exercise without fail.

Whether we can continue the North-South dialogue—which has been so far suspended—depends on their position whether they can withdraw their decision to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise. This is a very serious problem.

Because of the suspension of the Team Spirit joint military exercises this year, the historic North-South agreement, joint denuclearization declaration, and supplementary agreements for their implementation have been adopted and effectuated. The joint organizations for their implementation have been also formed.

We are firmly convinced today that the suspension of the Team Spirit joint military exercise would greatly contribute to the North-South dialogue and detente. Nevertheless, they insist that they cannot suspend the exercise. This shows that the South Korean rulers do not want an advance in the North-South dialogue and that they will block it.

The South Korean authorities should think deeply about how their resumption of the Team Spirit war exercise can greatly affect the North-South dialogue and peaceful reunification of the country. They should also take steps to withdraw this war exercise before 15 December as demanded by us.

Despite our repeated warnings, if they continue going to the road of confrontation and war, while attempting to conduct the Team Spirit joint military exercise without fail, they will not avoid a stern judgment of history as destroyers of dialogue and as traitors of reunification.

DFRF Berates South for 'Development of Nuclear Weapons'

SK1412120392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1118 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 14 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland (DFRF) today issued a statement in connection with the exposure of the truth of the South Korean authorities' development of nuclear weapons by the "open letter on the truth of the development of nuclear weapons by the South Korean authorities" made public by the Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front (Hanminjon).

Denouncing the development of nuclear weapons by the South Korean rulers, the statement said: The South Korean authorities have raised groundless outcries over the nuclear problem, taking issue with the North and, under its pretext, agreed with the United States to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises and declared this, thus driving the North-South dialogue virtually to a rupture.

The persistent clamor of the South Korean authorities intended to cause "suspicion of nuclear development" against the North in a far-fetched way was a nonsense reminding us of a thief crying "stop thief " and the "declaration of the absence of nuclear weapons" published at the end of last year was a sheer lie, the statement said, and went on:

The South Korean authorities, utterly upset by the exposure of their nuclear development which had been kept in top secrecy, resorted to a petty trick, throwing together a balderdash, to cover up their crimes, at the North-South joint nuclear control committee held a few days ago.

With nothing can the South Korean authorities conceal their heinous crime in having stepped up the development of nuclear weapons or cleanse their dishonour as nuclear-maniacs and nuclear war servants of U.S. imperialism.

Trade Unions Protest South's 'Development of Nuclear Arms'

SK1512112992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1050 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 15 (KCNA)—The spokesman of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea issued a statement today, bitterly denouncing the adventurous development of nuclear arms by the South Korean authorities as an anti-national, anti-peace crime to unleash a nuclear war for devastating the territory of Korea and exterminating the Korean nation and to obstruct the peace and reunification of the country.

The statement says:

The South Korean authorities raised outcries over "suspicion of nuclear arms development" against the North and announced that they would resume the "Team Spirit" joint military maneuvers with the U.S. imperialists under that pretext. This reminds one of a thief crying "stop thief". The "declaration on the absence of nuclear weapons" made by the chief executive of South Korea at the end of last year is a sheer lie. Upset by the disclosure of their secret development of nuclear arms, the South Korean authorities are employing cheap tricks to conceal the truth. With nothing, however, can they conceal their nature as nuclear maniacs.

They must frankly admit their criminal development of nuclear arms and apologize to the entire nation and stop it at once.

If the South Korean rulers do not accept our demand, they will have to bear full responsibility for all the grave consequences arising therefrom.

KCNA Reviews 16 Dec Pyongyang Press

SK1612050192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0427 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang December 16 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a message of greetings sent by President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to President Nursultan Nazarbayev on the first national day anniversary of Kazakhstan.

Seen in NODONG SINMUN is a solidarity message to the great leader President Kim Il-song from General Secretary Guzman Rivera Castanera and International Secretary Luis Flores Silva of the Revolutionary Socialist Party of Peru, denouncing the decision to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military maneuvers.

The paper reports that President Kim Il-song's revolutionary activities were introduced by the Cuban magazine PAGINAS.

President Kim Il-song's reminiscences "With the Century" is being widely disseminated and studied in foreign countries, says the press.

Papers dedicate articles to the 25th anniversary of the publication of President Kim Il-song's classical work "*Let Us Embody the Revolutionary Spirit of Independence, Self-sustenance and Self-defence More Thoroughly in All Branches of State Activity*".

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's classical work "*On the Fundamental Questions of Revolutionary Party Building*" is being disseminated and studied in foreign countries, according to NODONG SINMUN.

Seen in the paper are solidarity letters to the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea from foreign party leaders denouncing the decision to resume the

"Team Spirit" and an account of a seminar on the chuche idea and the reunification of Korea held in Switzerland.

Papers inform the readers of the production of chemical fertilizers and electricity and the start of the winter holiday-making of farmers.

Papers carry an account of a rally of journalists and men of the press vowing to fulfil the tasks put forward at the Korean intellectuals meeting and notes on the meeting headlined "Staunch Stamina To Defend Our Socialism to the End."

Appearing in papers are a statement issued by the spokesman of the North side's headquarters of Pomchonghaknyon on the first anniversary of the adoption of the North-South agreement, a statement of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea denouncing the South Korean authorities' development of nuclear weapons and a report that foreign political parties and public circles demand the revocation of the decision to resume the "Team Spirit."

In a semi-monthly review of the South Korean situation, NODONG SINMUN denounces the South Korean authorities for bringing the North-South dialogue to a rupture and impeding the implementation of the agreement.

The paper carries a report of the international fact-finding group on the wartime crimes of old Japan published in Pyongyang.

It is reported in papers that the Filipino house speaker urged the government to open diplomatic ties with the DPRK and Gorbachev was cold-shouldered in Latin American countries.

Papers introduce Kazakhstan on the first anniversary of its independence.

Papers Mark Anniversary of Kim Chong-il Work on Obedience

SK1512112592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1046 GMT 15 Dec 92

["Papers Call For Increasing Obediance to Socialist Laws"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 15 (KCNA)—Today marks the 10th anniversary of the publication of "*On Increasing Obedience to Socialist Laws*", a classical work of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

On this occasion NODONG SINMUN carries a signed article stressing "increasing obedience to socialist laws is a powerful way to glorify socialism of our own style."

In the work Comrade Kim Chong-il set forth highly important tasks to steadily consolidate and develop Korean-style socialism centred on the popular masses, revolutionize and working-classize people and vigorously step up socialist construction by increasing obedience to socialist laws.

Noting that great changes have taken place in all fields of state and social life over the past ten years since the publication of the work, the article says a revolutionary law-abiding trait and socialist way of life have been strictly established throughout the society and the state and social system have been consolidated and developed steadily by successfully applying the idea and theory and policies advanced in time work under the guidance of the party and potitical, economic and military potentials of the country increased further still as a result of the vigorous promotion of the three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural.

By increasing obedience to socialist laws the work for firmly preparing the entire people as true revolutionaries of chuche type is being successfully realized and uninterrupted advance and upsurge are being effected in socialist construction and our-style socialism is being defended staunchly and consolidated and developed constantly, the article says, adding:

Revolutionary law-abiding trait has been thoroughly established in the whole society and a revolutionary system and order established among the working people, which leaves no room for remnants of all outdated [words indistinct]

Today all the people [words indistinct] and strictly establish revolutionary law-abiding traits in the whole society, regading it their sacred duty as citizens to abide by and execute laws of the state.

MINJU CHOSON in an article says that power bodies and officials should bring the advantages of the Korean socialist system into full play by steadily enhancing the functions and role of socialist laws.

NODONG SINMUN Urges Clarification of 'Comfort Women' Issue

SK1112060492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0539 GMT 11 Dec 92

["Truth Is Fated To Be Disclosed"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 11 (KCNA)—New documents proving that old Japan's "organized control" of Korean "comfort women for the army" had begun before 1933 were recently discovered at the national archives of Japan.

Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today says that however hard the Japanese Government authorities may try to conceal the past crimes, the truth is fated to be disclosed sooner or later.

The news analyst notes:

The new materials discovered this time show that the Japanese authorities have not made a wholesale investigation into the problem of "comfort women for the army" and are trying to evade the blame for the crimes with a very common word of "reflection."

If the Japanese Government had been willing to make a full-scale investigation into this problem and, on that basis, adequately apologize for and reflect on it, they would have discovered these materials.

The Japanese Government authorities obviously neither intend to sincerely apologize for the "comfort women" problem nor have the will to liquidate the past crimes.

The Japanese authorities must clarify quickly the whole picture of the thrice-cursed crimes against the Korean women in the past and sincerely apologize for and fully reflect on them.

NODONG SINMUN Dedicates Article to 'Day of Human Rights'

SK1112141792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1028 GMT 11 Dec 92

["In Defence of Human Rights"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 11 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today in a by-lined article dedicated to the "day of human rights" stresses that it is in the capitalist countries that human rights are most ruthlessly trampled down.

The author of the article says:

The capitalist class and their mouthpiece the reactionary ruling quarters who have all production means and power in their hands in the capitalist countries have no will to ensure true human rights for the popular masses.

If there be any right in the capitalist society, it is only the right of those who have money and power to suppress and exploit the popular masses who have no money and power.

The imperialists, however, are continuously clamouring about the "violation of human rights" in the socialist and other independent countries, behaving themselves like "judges of human rights violation". This is an artifice to cover the seamy side of the capitalist society, a wasteland of human rights, and a move to revive the capitalist system by undermining the faith in socialism among the people of the socialist countries.

In the Korean-style socialist society where man is valued most human rights are fully guaranteed by law and any encroachment upon human rights is not allowed.

To defend human rights it is imperative to struggle against the moves of the imperialists and reactionaries who encroach upon and violate them.

South Korea

Russian Fishery Talks Scheduled for 21-26 Dec in Moscow

SK1612092692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0901 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 16 (YONHAP)—The South Korea-Russia Fisheries Commission will meet in Moscow on Dec. 21-26 to set conditions for Korean fishing boats' operation in Russia's 200-mile economic waters next year, a National Fisheries Administration official said Wednesday.

National Fisheries Administrator Yun Ok-yong will leave on Saturday at the head of a nine-member official delegation, which will be accompanied by 11 representatives of private deep-sea and net fishing and shipping industries, the official said. V.F. Koresky, chairman of the Fisheries Committee of Russia, will represent Moscow.

Seoul will strongly ask Moscow to grant better fishing grounds for Korean fishermen as they expect to net just 129,000 tons this year in the Russian economic zone. Korea had been given permission by Russia to catch 430,000 tons of fish this year. The two sides will also discuss next year's catch quota, fishing fees, shipping and fishing nets.

Bar Association Reports Decline in Human Rights Conditions

SK1412085092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0754 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 14 (YONHAP)—Gradual democratization in South Korea has brought about improvements in the social climate, but human rights conditions have deteriorated due to selective control by the government over major issues, according to the Korean Bar Association.

Despite revision of the National Security Law in May 1991, violators of the law accounted for over 40 percent of the arrests made in connection with socio-political issues last year, the association says in a report on human rights conditions in Korea in 1991.

As of September last year, the number of arrests under the security law totaled 539 out of 1,316 under all political laws, or 41 percent, the report says. Workers accounted for 36 percent of the total arrested.

With revision of the security law, 74 of the arrested people were paroled or released upon cancellation of arrests, but in June 1991, the number of people arrested on security law charges was 537, up 41 percent from the month the previous year, as the result of stricter application of the law.

The eight-part report touches on all rights, including freedom of speech. The number of news organizations increased considerably, but the media failed to live up to its duty as the watchdog of democracy and there was fabrication, distortion and control of information, which obviously infringed on the people's right to know and set back freedom of the press, the report says.

Labor conditions worsened with the number of victims of industrial mishaps rising. In the first half of 1991, 16,018 had been hit by industrial disasters, up 10.4 percent from the previous year. The number of companies in arrears on wages was 95, owing 16.9 billion won (21.5 million U.S. dollars), up from 30 and 4.8 billion won. The government arrested 1,634 workers in 1988-1991, or 1.2 a day, the report says.

The farm population shrank 62 percent from 1967 to 6.07 million people of 1.7 million households last year amid aggravating farming conditions.

It says 3.31 million people, or 7.7 percent of the South Korean population, live in absolute poverty, urging the government to deal with the problem urgently.

Although the number of women having jobs increased to 8.46 million in 1991, up 14.5 percent from 1980, discrimination against them in employment still goes on, the report says.

IAEA Starts Ad Hoc Nuclear Inspection of DPRK

SK1612005992 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0000 GMT 16 Dec 92

[By correspondent Cha Man-sun from Vienna]

[Text] The fifth ad hoc [imsi] nuclear inspection on North Korea by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] began on 14 December. It will end on 19 December.

The IAEA sent an inspection team consisting of four officials in accordance with the nuclear inspection plan that is based on the nuclear accord concluded with North Korea. It will also send an official from another agency to North Korea to carry out inspection of a randomly selected region.

This inspection team will carry out supplementary inspection on facilities such as the nuclear reprocessing facilities that were not completely inspected during the last four inspections. It will also carry out preparatory work to draw up an annex of supplementary facilities so that regular [chonggi] inspection can be carried out smoothly.

The IAEA is currently continuing preparatory work to confirm facilities, strengthen observation of facilities, and survey the transfer of nuclear material and stockpile, and holds physical verifications of nuclear material extracted from North Korea.

Prosecution Begins Investigation of Pusan Mayor, Officials

SK1612123392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0715 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 16 (YONHAP)—The prosecution began to investigate charges of illegal electioneering by top Pusan officials Wednesday by questioning the people who made the allegations.

The investigation is being handled by prosecutor Yim Hui-yun of the Seoul district prosecutor's office's first public security division.

Prosecutors are analyzing a tape recording of the meeting at which the mayor, chief of police and other officials discussed how they could support Kim Yong-sam in his bid for the presidency.

The prosecution will question Rep. Yu Su-ho of the United People's Party [UPP], one of the 17 UPP members who filed charges against the officials, as soon as he arrives in Seoul from Taegu in the afternoon. The UPP has given the prosecution photographs of the officials leaving the secret gathering and copies of the recording of their discussion.

Former Justice Minister Kim Ki-chun, who organized the meeting, will be questioned with Pusan Mayor Kim Yong-hwan, Pusan Police Chief Pak Il-yong, Yi Kyu-sam, chief of the Agency for National Security Planning's Pusan office, Kim Tae-kyun, head of the Pusan detachment of the Defense Security Command, and Pak Nam-su, chairman of the Pusan Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Sources, however, say that subpoenas are unlikely to be delivered until after Friday's presidential election. Pusan District Prosecutor Chong Kyong-sik and U Myong-su, superintendent of the Pusan office of education, were not named in the UPP charge but will be investigated, they said.

The prosecution will try to gauge the reason for the gathering and study the conversation for indications of illegal political intent. The prosecution will probe how the UPP recorded the meeting to determine if it is admissible as evidence. The law totally bans election activity by civil servants other than lawmakers, local councilmen and their secretaries.

The Defense Ministry removed Col. Kim Tae-kyun, chief of the Pusan detachment of the Defense Security Command, from his post Tuesday. The ministry said Kim would be dealt with in accordance with the law and that he was being questioned at the headquarters of the Defense Security Command.

New Pusan Police Chief

SK1612113792 Seoul YONHAP in English 1025 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 16 (YONHAP)—The government Wednesday appointed Kim Ki-su, deputy chief of the Seoul police administration, to serve as chief of the Pusan police administration.

Kim succeeds Pak Il-yong as Pusan police chief. Pak has been relieved of his duty in connection with the secret meeting of key Pusan officials held last week to discuss ways to influence the upcoming presidential election in favor of Kim Yong-sam, presidential candidate of the majority Democratic Liberal Party.

Pusan Meeting Tape Probe Set

SK1612041792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0305 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 16 (YONHAP)—The government is to probe the taping of a secret meeting in Pusan on Dec. 11 in which the mayor and police chief discussed with other top officials how to give Kim Yong-sam's election hopes an illegal boost. Recording the meeting was an invasion of privacy and the government would investigate how the tape was made, a government spokesman said.

"If this incident recurs, it may cause various problems concerning social order and state secrets," he said. Participants in the breakfast meeting included the local head of Korea's anti-espionage agency.

No Comments on 'Regrettable' Events

SK1612042492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0246 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 16 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u ordered a thorough investigation Wednesday into a meeting of top Pusan officials to assist Kim Yong-sam's presidential campaign. "This is highly regrettable when all government officials are trying to change past election practices," No said after giving appointment credentials to new Pusan mayor Pak Pu-chan.

"Whatever the intention, this incident has hurt all civil servants," No said. He ordered Home Minister Paek Kwang-hyon to conduct an in-depth probe and mete out punishment wherever necessary.

The United People's Party revealed Tuesday that former justice minister Kim Ki-chun led a meeting of the Pusan mayor, chief of Pusan district Agency for National Security Planning, and other top officials to help the Democratic Liberal Party candidate in the presidential election.

Prime Minister Hyon Sung-chong said the incident was not ordered by the government and in no way reflected the intention of his politically neutral cabinet.

"A former cabinet minister happened to have a meal with Pusan officials and the problem was caused while they were discussing the election," Hyon said.

"The incident is wholly different from the intentions of the cabinet. The cabinet cannot interfere, regardless of which candidate is elected," the prime minister said. He asked that all government workers, especially in the prime minister's office, be careful not to create doubt about their political neutrality.

Presidential Candidates Address TV Audiences 12-13 Dec

SK1412111692

[Editorial Report] On 12 and 13 December, Seoul KBS-1, MBC, and SBS Television Networks in Korean carry speeches by presidential candidates Paek Ki-wan, Yi Chong-chan of the New Korea Party [NKP], Kim Tae-chung of the Democratic Party [DP], Kim Yong-sam of the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], and Pak Chan-chong of the New Political Reform Party [NPRP].

Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean at 0840 GMT 12 Dec carries a 20-minute recorded speech by independent candidate Paek Ki-wan. Paek Ki-wan first greets the people and thanks them for helping raise funds for his television speech. Paek Ki-wan explains his view of the country by quoting Kim Ku's teaching that "the country divided into the two is not our country. Above all, the country governed by the pro-Japanese, U.S., Soviet groups is not our genuine country." He adds: "He will create the country in which the popular masses become masters."

After noting serious environmental pollution, Paek Ki-wan says if he is elected he will remove all of the country's nuclear power plants.

Seoul MBC Television Network in Korean at 1300 GMT 12 Dec carries a 20-minute recorded speech by presidential candidate Yi Chong-chan of the NKP.

Yi Chong-chan urges Prime Minister Hyon Sung-chong to fairly and justly execute election laws and President No Tae-u to break off his relations with the DLP. After criticizing the government's inconsistent foreign policy, he says: "By establishing political leadership based on the legitimacy of the regime and the support of the people, I will develop the ROK-Japanese relations into a sound relations."

After stressing preparations for reunification, Yi Chong-chan says: "Even though economic merger of the North and the South is realized, there will still exist many difficulties for the two heterogeneous societies to be one. To settle such difficulties, the South, above all, should be changed into moral society that can be respected by the North Korean people."

Seoul SBS Television Network in Korean at 1355 GMT 12 Dec carries a 20-minute recorded speech by presidential candidate Kim Tae-chung of the DP.

Kim Tae-chung first greets the people and says he attaches importance to maintaining public peace and order which enable the people to live in security. He points out the current society where crimes are rampant so that the people cannot live in security in spite of the large number of the police. He says: "To create a society where the people can live in security, the regime should be changed really this time."

After noting the serious traffic issue, Kim Tae-chung stresses the postponement of Kyongbu high-speed subway construction, requiring enormous expenses.

After pointing out various social and traffic issues, Kim Tae-chung says: "By fully conducting the local autonomous system, he will equally develop each district and improve the rural economy." He adds: "I will without fail conduct the election of the heads of the local self-governing units to which the DLP objects by June next year."

Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 0740 GMT 13 Dec carries a 20-minute recorded speech by presidential candidate Kim Yong-sam of the DLP.

Kim Yong-sam says he is going to list some educational issues. He says that to settle such a structural educational problem as the university entrance system, he will allow universities to freely enlist freshmen. Kim Yong-sam says that to foster technological manpower our society needs in each field, he will set up a policy for high school vocational education.

Kim Yong-sam says: "He will greatly increase research funds for basic science research in universities." He adds: "To conduct education for human beings and democratic citizens, including the education for morality, manners, and order consciousness, I will change the contents of textbooks of kindergartens, elementary, middle, and high schools."

Seoul SBS Television Network in Korean 1355 GMT 13 Dec carries a 20-minute recorded speech by presidential candidate Pak Chan-chong of the NPRP.

Pak Chan-chong first thanks the people for warmly encouraging him during his election campaigns throughout the country. After stressing the need for change, he says: "Only realizing the generation transfer of accepting a new leader who acts according to new thinking and ideas can meet the changes of the world."

Referring to economic issues, Pak Chan-chong says that he will naturally conduct the real-name financial transaction system. After stressing clean politics and society, he urges the people not to hesitate to accept a new leader to meet historical change.

Kim Tae-chung Resigns Democratic Party Post

SK1412040192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0302 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 14 (YONHAP)—Kim Tae-chung resigned as chairman of the main opposition Democratic Party [DP] Monday in a move seen by many as "the last card" for him to achieve an upset victory in the Dec. 18 election.

With the announcement, Kim fulfilled a pledge made at the party's national convention in May and elsewhere that he would retire from active party politics regardless of the outcome of the presidential poll. But actually, many analysts say, Kim wants to show the nation his determination to win the presidency on his last try. Incidentally, he also wanted to assure a faction within his party, led by co-chairman Yi Ki-taek, that he was a man of his word and thus encourage Yi and his followers to be more active in campaigning in the Kyongsang Provinces, Yi's power base and Kim's weakest area, the analysts say.

There was a report that Kim had also contemplated giving up his seat in the National Assembly. He decided against it in the end, but it shows the extent of his desire and determination to become president of the country.

"There is only one hope left for me," Kim told a press conference, referring to his victory in the presidential election. Kim said he had planned to leave the chairmanship of the party sooner, but delayed the announcement until four days before election day because he wasn't sure what effect it would have on his campaign. But it is obvious he timed the announcement for its maximum effect, well aware that his nearest rivals, Kim Yong-sam of the Democratic Liberal Party and Chong Chu-yong of the United People's Party, do not have any more surprises left to draw the undecided voters in the final stage of the campaign.

On other issues, Kim told the press conference that he would sincerely seek a policy of reconciliation and harmony with those who had suppressed him during the past 30 years of military rule. If he were elected president, he said, he would work with President No Tae-u to form a pan-national cabinet and pool able leaders from all political parties.

Kim refuted a Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] claim that his "political ideology" is soft on communism. The DLP is making a fuss over the DP's alliance with "Chonguk Yonhap," the National Alliance for democracy and reunification. But Kim noted that Kim Yong-sam himself had cooperated with the alliance's leaders during the administrations of presidents Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u up to the time of the three party merger of the pro-government DLP. Did this mean, Kim asked, that if Chonguk people cooperate with Kim Yong-sam, they are all right, but if they work with the Democratic Party, they suddenly become "communist sympathizers?"

Kim Tae-chung said he knew that some people surrounding Kim Yong-sam had "suspicious linkage" with a large North Korean spy ring uncovered recently. It was even reported to President No, Kim said, noting that not a single member of his party had been implicated in the spy scandal.

Election Committee To Use Abacus Instead of Computers

SK1412020492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0110 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 14 (YONHAP)—It is a case of goodbye computers and hello abacus—again. The Central Election Management Committee (CEMC) said Monday it had decided to use the old reliable abacus in tallying ballots in the Dec. 18 presidential election at all 15 ballot counting offices across the nation. CEMC officials said they made the decision in order to avoid the charges of "computer manipulations" they faced following the March 24 general elections.

The decision means that the CEMC has to scrap the vast computer network it has already set up in Seoul, Pusan and other big cities, where more than 30 percent of eligible voters reside. Instead, the CEMC has secured some 300 abacus experts from among bank tellers, teachers at commercial high schools and students who have no affiliation with any presidential candidate, the officials said.

"When you consider that all of the major political parties are using personal computers in their campaigns, you will have to say that the use of the abacus is a step backward," one CEMC official said, requesting anonymity.

Three major television companies have agreed to not use computers to make projections of the election result and to broadcast only the results announced by the CEMC.

Three television networks had developed computer programs to make projections after the ballot counting reached 5 percent of the total votes cast. Some network officials were so confident of the ability of their computers that they were worried some members of the public might misunderstand their pinpoint accuracy.

"We are sorry we can't use the fast and economical way of tallying with computers," said the CEMC official. "But we like to be fair and accurate above all."

TONG-A ILBO Interviews Chong Chu-yong

SK1312081592 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 11 Dec 92 p 5

[Interview with Chong Chu-yong, presidential candidate of the United People's Party [UPP], by a group of unidentified TONG-A ILBO directors—date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [TONG-A ILBO] What do you think of the current atmosphere of election campaigning?

[Chong Chu-yong] A political scheme to make a government-made president is openly being promoted. I am very concerned over the possibility that the will for neutrality may become a meaningless word because it is seriously being damaged by some political officials whose thoughts are against President No Tae-u's intent. The Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] is oppressing the UPP and Hyundai by fully mobilizing the Agency for National Security Planning, the prosecution, the police, and even bank supervisors and the Office of Tax Administration, using high-ranking official positions as decoys. Many policemen who were mobilized to shadow cadres of Hyundai subsidiaries called me and said that "we received an order to shadow them for twenty-four hours," and that "we would like to make a conscientious statement." [passage omitted]

[TONG-A ILBO] In order to dispel people's suspicion, can you make public how much money you spend for campaigning?

[Chong] The total amount of our campaigning fund has not been summed up because we are still in the middle of campaigning. However, we planned a budget within the limit (36.7 billion won) established by the Central Election Management Committee and are spending in accordance with the budget. An interim report expected some amount of the budget will be left. There is no reason for me not to disclose my campaigning fund. [passage omitted]

[TONG-A ILBO] If you come into power, can you completely separate yourself from Hyundai? What measures will you take for the separation?

[Chong] Hyundai has grown up as a large international business group, separated from politics so far, and the separation will continue even if I come into power. After the election, I will dispose of my stocks in accordance with legal procedures and will donate the money from the disposal for our party's development fund and various social welfare funds, such as the fund for promoting small- and medium-sized businesses and the low-income housing fund, as I have stated before.

[TONG-A ILBO] Will you pick three of your public commitments, which you will give priority to and promptly perform if you come into power?

[Chong] First, I will hold elections for local government officials during the first half of next year. Also, right after I come into power, I will implement a self-regulation system for banks and lower the interest of bank loan by six percent. I will realize the supply of apartments at half-price for the populace, too.

[TONG-A ILBO] You said you would amend the constitution for the cabinet system within two or three years after you come into power. Exactly when will you implement the procedure for it? You opposed the cabinet system from the beginning. Why did you make such a public commitment on the cabinet system just prior to the public announcement of the election?

[Chong] After stabilizing the economy during the first two or three years of my term of office, I will promote the amendment of the constitution by collecting the public opinion. The commitment on the cabinet system was normally released after a close review of the result of the party's research and public opinion. [passage omitted]

[TONG-A ILBO] The UPP occupies less than 40 seats in the National Assembly. What measures will you take to resolve such an unbalance between the administration and the National Assembly if you are elected?

[Chong] "Unconditional opposition" will not exist in future politics. I believe that the National Assembly will hold only sound discussions regardless of majority or minority and that there will be no more political unrest. Do you think President Reagan did not work well because of the small number of congressional seats? What is better, the DLP will be completely dissolved with only the followers of Kim Yong-sam. [pas age omitted]

Daily Predicts Impasse in Inter-Korean Dialogue

SK1312040692 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 13 Dec 92 pp 2, 9

[By staff reporter Kim Hye-won]

[Text] A deadlock in inter-Korean dialogue is expected at least until next spring when the South Korea-U.S. joint military exercise, "Team Spirit," is over.

North Korea Friday virtually called off the ninth round of South-North High-Level Talks, which were scheduled for Dec. 21-24 in Seoul, by rejecting the South's offer to have a liaison officers' meeting to arrange the talks.

Its liaison officer, Choe Pong-chun, demanded a halt to the joint military exercise as a prerequisite of any meetings for arranging the high-level talks.

North Korean officials who head the four inter-Korean joint commissions sent a letter to their counterparts yesterday, making the same demand.

With the virtual abortion of the prime ministers' talks, all inter-Korean dialogue channels have been frozen, except the South-North Joint Nuclear Control Commission [JNCC], whose 13th session is scheduled for Thursday [17 December].

But the JNCC is not likely to easily make headway in settling the thorny nuclear issue any time soon.

South Korean officials, in fact, have forecast a possible delay in the inter-Korean prime ministers' talks since North Korea unilaterally called off the first meetings of inter-Korean joint commissions in November in protest of the "Team Spirit" exercise.

The North Koreans, then, demanded that South Korea announce the cancellation of its plan to resume the war games by the end of November.

South Korea and the United States announced at the end of their annual security consultative meeting (SCM) in Seoul in October that they would implement the "Team Spirit" exercise in the spring of 1993 unless the two Koreas implement the first bilateral nuclear inspections by then.

They postponed the annual defense exercise in 1992 to create a more favorable mood for inter-Korean reconciliation.

South Korean officials believe the North's objection to the joint military exercise was simply a pretext to postpone the inter-Korean dialogues.

They say there are several factors that might motivate the North to postpone inter-Korean dialogue at this time.

One of them is the presidential election in the South, they say. North Koreans might not feel much urgency to hold the talks during the power transition period in the South.

Secondly, North Koreans are not driven to push the inter-Korean talks as its normalization talks with Japan and the United States have hit an impasse over their nuclear weapons development program, the officials say.

They say one major reason behind North Koreans' willingness to have talks with South Koreans was their hope of improving relations with Japan and the United States.

The two countries, as well as many EC countries, have demanded as a precondition for improving relations with North Korea a "meaningful progress in inter-Korean relations," the officials say.

North Koreans, moreover, cannot expect any economic aid from South Korea as the South has curtailed all major economic exchanges with the North, linking the assistance with the nuclear issue, they say.

The officials expect North Korea to place more emphasis on the recovery of its economy than on diplomatic issues for some time to come.

The sudden replacement of Yon Hyong-muk, a diplomatic figure, with Kang Song-san, a technocrat well versed in economic matters, as the North's premier Friday can be understood in a similar context, they say.

North Koreans are likely to accelerate its economic openings by inducing more foreign investment and economic exchanges with South Korea, the officials say.

But the South Koreans have maintained the policy that there would be no substantial development in inter-Korean economic relations until the settlement of the North Korean nuclear issue.

North Korea, on the other hand, demanded that South Korea open all U.S. military bases in the South.

D-Ram Exporters Propose Self-Control of Prices

SK1112094892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0912 GMT 11 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 11 (YONHAP)—The United States may stop dumping investigations against South Korean-exported semiconductors as the Korean makers move to control their prices on their own.

Kim Kwang-ho, chairman of the Korea semiconductor industries association, told reporters Thursday that Seoul asked Washington to spare Korean semiconductor exporters the final dumping determination and instead allow them to use the data collection program (DCP) for self-control of prices.

The two governments are currently discussing stopping the anti-dumping investigation, said Kim, who is also the president of Samsung Electronics Co.

The U.S. Commerce Department ruled Oct. 21 that the D-Rams (Dynamic Random Access Memory Chips) made by Korean companies were sold at less than fair price by between 87.4 percent and 5.99 percent in the U.S market.

U.S. officials visited Korea in early November to launch a three-week anti-dumping investigation of dram manufacturers—Samsung, Goldstar Electron Co., and Hyundai Electronics Co.—to check the production cost and local sales price. The final ruling is due in March next year.

No Chang-u, director-general of the Trade and Industry Ministry's Trade Cooperation Bureau, will leave for Washington on Saturday to meet with the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) to settle the two-way semiconductor trade friction, Kim said. For stopping the anti-dumping investigation, the United States may resort to a DCP under which Korean companies will not export their products below the fixed cost price, or a fair market price system that lets the U.S. Commerce Department set the product cost on a quarterly basis, or a self-regulated exports system, which leaves Korean industries to restrict the volume of their exports themselves.

Samsung Exports Communications Equipment to China

SK1412123192 Seoul YONHAP in English 1128 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Kumi, Dec. 14 (YONHAP)—Samsung Electronics Co. has exported 6 million dollars worth of optical fiber communications equipment to Shanghai and six other Chinese cities following Korea's diplomatic normalization with Beijing last autumn. A source at the Kumi Chamber of Commerce and Industry said Monday the equipment shipped by Samsung electronics' Kumi plant included 1,000km of optical fiber cables and 2,400 other items of communications. The items will be used at a total of 51 telephone offices in Shanghai, Harbin, Changchun, Guangzhou, Tianjin, Xian and Chekiang, he said.

The communications equipment was supplied under China's eighth five-year communications modernization plan. Samsung neared an agreement on next year's supply similar items with the technology import and export department of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, the source added.

Imports Fail To Increase for First Time Since 1982

SK1612014992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0047 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 16 (YONHAP)—Imports for January-Dec. 14 are almost unchanged from last year, failing to grow for the first time in 10 years, the Korean Foreign Trade Association [KFTA] said Wednesday. Imports reached 78,113 million U.S. dollars Monday, off 0.2 percent from 78,254 million dollars in the same period last year, a KFTA spokesman said. They last posted negative growth in 1982.

For January-November, imports were up 0.2 percent at 74,842 million dollars, from 74,714 million dollars a year earlier. Imports plunged 7.6 percent in the first two weeks of December to 3,271 million dollars, from 3,540 million dollars in 1991. After last declining in 1982, imports rose 29.9 percent in 1987, 26.3 percent in 1988, 18.6 percent in 1989, 13.6 percent in 1990, and 16.7 percent in 1991.

The drop was caused by a sharp reduction in imports of capital goods for equipment investment and a remarkable slowdown in raw material imports despite the continuous rise in imports of consumer goods, the spokesman said.

In January-November, imports of raw materials, general machinery and electronic goods for industrial use dropped 2.1 percent, 3.2 percent and 10.9 percent, respectively. But imports of consumer goods rose 5.2 percent.

Toy Industry Loses Price Edge; Sales, Scope Decline

SK1512052992 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 15 Dec 92 p 8

[Text] Korea's toy industry, which reached its peak in 1987, is rapidly declining in all aspects—in number of companies, employees, output and foreign shipments.

According to figures of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the number of toymakers increased 44.3 percent from 501 in 1985 to 723 in 1987, but fell back 17.8 percent to 594 in 1990. The number of employees in this sector also plunged 54.5 percent from 44,000 in 1987 to 20,000 in 1990, the ministry tally showed.

Industrial production dropped from $1.22 billion in 1987 to $781 million last year, a decrease of 36 percent, and exports plunged from $1.07 billion in 1987 to $359 million for the first 10 months of this year.

Ministry officials attributed the toy industry's decline to rapid market erosion by China, insufficient technological improvements and poor overseas marketing.

Korea's share in the five major markets of the United States, Germany, Canada, Japan and Hong Kong dropped from 12.4 percent in 1980 to 7.2 percent in 1990, while that of China soared from 1.3 percent to 32.6 percent over the cited period.

As in other light industries, Korean toy products are losing their price competitiveness to Chinese and other Southeast Asian goods, while their quality is lagging behind their Japanese and European counterparts. The domestic makers shipped out 80 percent of their products under the OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturing) formula, making themselves vulnerable to buyers' whims, the officials said.

To help keep the toy industry afloat, the ministry is encouraging industrial sophistication by technological innovations, while relocating abroad the manufacture of cheap, simple products. To prevent excessive competition in international markets, however, it will limit the number of firms allowed to invest in a foreign country.

In support of technology and design areas, the ministry will help set up a toy technology institute, expand the businesses' in-house design developing units from the present 11 to 50, hold toy design fairs annually and create an exclusive industrial estate for toymakers.

As part of overseas marketing support, the government will shoulder half the expenditures for the makers' participation in foreign toy shows and level up the tax exemption rate for overseas market developing costs.

Police Say Hyundai Holds 56.54 Billion Won in 'Slush Fund'

SK1412075092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0652 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 14 (YONHAP)—Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. had 56.54 billion won in its slush fund, 400 million won more than had been earlier thought, a National Police Administration spokesman said Monday.

The police have found that 48.4 billion of the money flowed to the United People's Party of Hyundai Group founder and presidential candidate Chong Chu-yong. The police discovered that Hyundai created a 56.5 billion-won secret fund out of 110.88 billion won in payments for exports between July 1 and Dec. 1, he said.

The Hyundai Shipyard put 56.54 billion won into accounts at eight branches of two banks to disguise its origins, he said.

Government 'Likely' To Open Additional CIS Embassies

SK1312053892 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 13 Dec 92 p 2

[Text] The government is likely to open embassies in two members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)—Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan—early next year. The Foreign Ministry said yesterday that the government is considering opening embassies in the two CIS nations next year. But the embassy in Russia will cover nine of 12 independent states for the time being—Uzbekistan, Byelarus, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Moldova and Tadjikistan as well as Kazkhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

Ambassador to Russia Hong Sun-yong has already presented credentials to each head of nine states, except Tadjikistan. The government plans to dispatch an ambassador to Ukraine soon, a ministry official said. No diplomatic ties have been established with Georgia.

YONHAP Views 'Rare' DPRK Assembly Session

SK1212063192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0557 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 12 (OANA-YONHAP)—North Korea's Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] closed after just one day in session Friday with a reshuffle apparently aimed at economic reforms. North Korea, in a rare move, opened the assembly for the second time this year, and Friday's session was apparently for the reshuffle affecting the prime minister, the Supreme People's Assembly standing committee, the central court and the central procurator's office.

Kang Song-san replaced Yon Hyong-muk as prime minister and deputy premier-minister of external economic commission Kim Tal-hyon was named chief of the state planning commission. Yi Song-tae, vice foreign trade minister, was promoted to head of the external economic commission, all related to strengthening economic reforms.

The appointments brought up figures close to heir-apparent Kim Chong-il, including Kim Tal-hyon and party secretary for international affairs Kim Yong-sun, who were named alternate members to the Politburo, the central authority organization.

Intimate aides Chong Ha-chol, vice chairman of the radio and television bradcasting committee, Kim Ki-yong, president of the Choson Telecommunications Co., and Chang Song-taek, party secretary for youth, were all made formal members of the party central committee. Kim Kuk-tae, head of the Kim Il-song higher party school, was named party secretary.

Burma

Khin Nyunt Meets UNHRC Representative 14 Dec

BK1412122492 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1150 GMT 14 Dec 92

[From the program "News in Brief"]

[Text] Major General Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, received Professor Yozo Yokota, United Nations Human Rights Commission representative, at the Defense Ministry's Dagon House this morning.

UNHRC Representative Departs

BK1412143892 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Visiting United Nations Human Rights Commission [UNHRC] representative Professor Yozo Yokota left Yangon [Rangoon] by air this evening.

Professor Yozo Yokota was seen off at Yangon airport by U Nyunt Swe, deputy minister for foreign affairs; Acting UN Resident Representative Mr. (Rai Setna); and responsible personnel from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The professor was accompanied by Miss (Lari Fredtich) and Miss (Zenita Lida), officials from the Geneva-based Human Rights Commission.

Rebel Government Urges MP's To Boycott Convention

BK1412105892 London BBC in Burmese to Burma 1430 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Unidentified BBC correspondent's recorded telephone interview with U Sein Win, prime minister of the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma; date, place not given]

[Text] [Correspondent] U Sein Win, what is your opinion of the parliamentary representatives who are going to attend the National Convention? Would you please explain in brief?

[Sein Win] It is a very crucial moment. We are parliamentary representatives as well as people's representatives. During the election we have promised so many things to the public. We promised to render democratic rights and to follow and to perform our duties according to the desires of the public. These are some of the outstanding promises that we have made. That was why people trusted us and voted for us to be their representatives.

Now the election is over in Burma but the military clique is planning to hold the National Convention. Actually it is not a National Convention and everybody knows that. It is a convention of the military clique. This so-called National Convention will be a convention of the military clique in disguise that will legally strengthen their dictatorial power and will also ensure that the military is a privileged class in the country. We also know that, after the convention, they will prolong military rule.

As we know the situation very well, the parliamentary representatives must have an especially clear-cut stance on attending the convention because they have promised the public during the election that they will fulfill the desires of the people.

So what are the desires of the people? We all know the people do not want the military to rule the country; they yearn for democracy and freedom, and they want peace in the country.

We, while respecting the desires of the people, must therefore have a righteous stance. If the parliamentary representatives do not respect the desires of the people and participate in the convention then they will become victims of the history like their predecessors who were obedient to the rulers during the colonial period and under the Japanese rule.

It is therefore important during this crucial period for the parliamentary representatives that they don't become the victims of history. I would therefore like to urge all parliamentary representatives to think about this matter carefully and boycott the phony National Convention. People want the delegates to boycott the convention.

Battling Opium Warlords Threaten Rangoon's Plans

BK1412062292 Hong Kong AFP in English 0116 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Bangkok, Dec 14 (AFP)—Bitter fighting has broken out between rival opium warlords in a forgotten corner of northern Burma, threatening to upset Rangoon's carefully juggled calm in the volatile region.

Fighting erupted between rival ethnic Chinese clans in the Kokang region of Shan state on November 29, according to sources in Thailand citing reports from northern Burma.

Burma's ruling junta, officially called the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), is trying to stop the conflict before it jeopardizes Rangoon's strategy to keep the Shan state calm, Burmese opposition and other sources said over the weekend.

Since 1989, Rangoon has managed to cobble together quiet trade-offs with various armed groups in the northern part of Shan State, Burma watchers said.

Analysts said the deals let the groups keep their guns and continue growing poppies for opium in exchange for ceasefires. They in turn have allowed the military to withdraw troops from the area and fight ethnic and pro-democracy rebels elsewhere in the country.

"The danger for Rangoon is that other, more powerful armed groups in Shan state could get drawn in to the conflict and the SLORC will find its ceasefire deals unravelling," one Thai-based analyst said.

It was not clear how the fighting in Kokang, a major opium-producing area, might affect this year's harvest, the sources said. Opium production in Burma last year was more than 2,000 tonnes, foreign anti-narcotics officials say.

The outbreak of hostilities betwteen the rival opium warlords at the top of the so-called Golden Triangle is the first major conflict since the SLORC arranged the ceasefires in 1989 in the northern part of Shan state. Drug kingpin Khun Sa, who operates to the south along Thailand's border, was not included in the deals.

"This conflict in the north of Shan state is a major setback for the SLORC," said Tu Ja, a senior official of the Kachin Independence Organisation (KIO).

The KIO, operating in Burma's Kachin state and near the scene of the current fighting, are allies of the Karen and pro-democracy guerrilla groups fighting the SLORC.

Tu Ja said senior SLORC member Major General Khin Nyunt, the powerful director of Burma's military intelligence, had intervened personally to try to stop the battle between the Phueng and Yang clans.

"Khin Nyunt is trying to mediate to stop the fighting. If he can't stop it with negotiations he might use troops," Tu Ja said.

Sources in Rangoon reached by telephone from Bangkok said tension between the Kokang clans had been high for some time though reports of the recent fighting had not reached them.

"We have been hearing reports of squabbling for some months. The two groups have definitely fallen out," one foreign resident said.

Tu Ja and others said control of the opium trade was most likely the main reason behind the fighting.

"It's a personal problem involving money and drugs between two private armies. Brokering and money will contain it and solve it," the Rangoon source said.

"The Kokang region is a real Wild West part of the country. What happens there does not impinge too much on Burma proper," the source added.

Large areas of Shan state have never been under Rangoon's direct control.

Before Burma's independence in 1948, British colonial rulers exerted only indirect control, largely letting Shan state's princes rule their fiefdoms.

Shan nationalist groups began battling Rangoon for greater autonomy in the 1950s. In the late 1960s, the Burmese Communist Party (BCP), backed by China, established a large zone in Shan state from where it fought Rangoon.

Slowly starved of Chinese funding, the BCP collapsed in 1989. BCP forces, drawn largely from hill tribe minorities such as the Wa, mutinied against their leaders and fragmented into several well-equipped armies.

It was into this void that Rangoon stepped in with ceasefire deals.

Army Battalions Deploy Near Mae Sot

BK1212031792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 12 Dec 92 p 6

[Text] Tak—Rangoon has moved two battalions to some 10 kilometres from the Thai border in preparation for an attack on a Karen National Union stronghold at Kawmoorah Camp opposite Mae Sot District here.

Thai military sources said the two Burmese battalions from the 22nd and 66th divisions are equipped with 105mm and 120mm artillery and recoiless guns.

A forward headquarters has also been set up opposite the border district with two more battalions deployed to guard Rangoon forces' positions in the rear.

The sources said the Burmese troops have recruited 700 porters, both men and women, to help carry their weapons and supplies.

About 400 Burmese troops are also repairing a road to Kawmoorah at the Thai border to facilitate the advancement of Rangoon forces, the sources said.

Rangoon had launched heavy attacks on Kawmoorah in the past dry seasons but failed to capture it.

Agricultural Delegation Returns From Vietnam

BK1612080692 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Excerpt] The seven-member Myanmar [Burmese] delegation led by Major General Myint Aung, minister of agriculture, returned to Yangon [Rangoon] today via Bangkok by Myanmar Airways after having studied policies and growth guidelines for agricultural development in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam since 4 December. The delegation was there at the invitation of Mr. Nguyen Cong Tan, minister of agriculture and food of the SRV.

While in SRV Minister Maj. Gen. Myint Aung called on Prime Minister Mr. Vo Van Kiet in Hanoi and held discussions with the Agriculture and Food Minister, deputy ministers and the heads of the department concerned on development of agricultural sectors of both countries, cultivation and the production of paddy on an extensive scale and economic cooperation. [passage omitted]

Cambodia

Khmer Rouge Abduct American, Other Peacekeepers

BK1612100692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0958 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Dec 16 (AFP)—Khmer Rouge guerrillas in central Cambodia have again abducted U.N. peacekeepers—including an American, a Chinese, and a Frenchman—and were holding them against their will, a United Nations spokesman said Wednesday.

A total of 21 peacekeepers, including two initially abducted Tuesday and a rescue team of 19 that went to check on their whereabouts, were being held in the province of Kompong Thom, 10 kilometers (six miles) east of the provincial capital, spokesman Eric Falt said.

"I don't think they are in any danger," the spokesman said.

A rescue mission of Indonesian peacekeepers was 400 meters (yards) from the site actively negotiating their release, Falt said.

The local Khmer Rouge commander said he would release the peacekeepers as soon as he received an order from his superiors.

That order was issued Wednesday in Phnom Penh and was being flown to the central provincial capital, Falt said.

KR 'Initially Being Cooperative'

BK1612101992 Hong Kong AFP in English 1016 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Phnom Penh, Dec 16 (AFP)—[passage omitted] While the spokesman [UN Spokesman Eric Falt] said the Khmer Rouge [KR] were initially being cooperative with the United Nations' request to release the captives, "We will draw their attention to the serious implications of this action by one of their local commanders."

The initial team of two military observers was going to meet a team of civilian police but were stopped by the Khmer Rouge on the way.

"At some point they left their vehicle and walked to the village of Phum O'Sala" where they were kept overnight, Falt said.

On Wednesday morning, two more military observers—an American and a Senegalese—went looking for their colleagues escorted by a platoon of Indonesians.

They too were taken captive against their will, although some of the Indonesians were able to get away and begin negotiating the groups' release. [passage omitted]

Khmer Rouge's 30 Nov-6 Dec Truce Breaches Noted

BK1612091392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] According to military reports, at 1700 on 6 December, Polpotist soldiers from Division 785 attacked the people's police forces stationed at Kang Meas village on coordinates WU83/02 in Santuk district of Kompong Thom Province, killing a policeman.

At 2000 on 30 November in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province, 50 Polpotist troops led by their leader called Ches attacked the police forces' position at Tonsai T'aeuk in Ta Yek commune on coordinates 67/10. After 40 minutes of fighting, the forces of the State of Cambodia [SOC] continued to firmly defend the position. However, while retreating, the Polpotist troops plundered 18 families at Sonak village in Ta Yek commune of their belongings and also wounded two villagers.

Exercising the self-defense right to maintain security for the people, the SOC forces have confronted, then defeated truce-violation activities carried out by the Khmer Rouge faction.

As a matter of fact, the armed unit in Kampot district, in cooperation with the people's local police forces, briefly fought the enemy troops on 3 December. As a result, three enemy soldiers were wounded and three others were forced to lay down their arms and surrender. On 30 November in the same province, two armed Khmer Rouge soldiers in Phnum Bouk Ko area and another in Chhuk district surrendered to the SOC's authorities.

On 3 December in Kompong Chhnang Province, Toek Phos district's armed unit and the people's police forces stationed at Spean village had a brief clash with the enemy troops. As a result, an enemy soldier was captured and another wounded and a B-40.5 rocket launcher was seized.

On 1 December in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province, some 150-200 Khmer Rouge elements from Divion 980 gathered at Khvav on coordinates VV52/44. They planned to plant mines and launch attacks from the outside defense perimeter. And on the same day, the Khmer Rouge sent seven ox carts and three trucks loaded with ammunition to Anlung Trang area on coordinates VV49/44 in preparation for mounting onslaughts on some positions of the SOC's armed forces in Chikreng district. On 2 December, the 980th Khmer Rouge division marshalled in Pang Nhanh its troops from various areas. And on the same day, the Khmer Rouge troops moved a 122-mm cannon of (?D-30 model) and two 76.2-mm cannons from Anlung Veng to Phum Kraom on coordinates PV78/43 in an attempt to attack Pongro Leu and (Toes Chhlop Leu). Also on 2 December, six Khmer Rouge soldiers from the 93d regiment armed with a B-40.5 rocket launcher and five AK rifles plundered the people in Thnal Louk village on coordinates VV44/36 of two recorders, two watches, a set of radio, a car battery, and 40,000 riels.

At 0510 on 1 December in Kompong Cham Province, some 20 Khmer Rouge elements from Division 407 ambushed a car convoy at Khvav village on coordinates WU32/37 in Prey Chhor district. As a result, two trucks were damaged and a passenger was killed and another was injured.

At 1930 on 3 December in Kompong Thom Province, Khmer Rouge troops destroyed a water pipe at Keng Krasang village on coordinates VV16/64 in Sanko commune of Kompong Svay district.

The reports add that at present, the Khmer Rouge faction is secretly shipping ammunition and sending troops in with the aim of attacking a number of areas controlled by the SOC side.

Hor Namhong Receives EC Parliamentary Delegates

BK1512081592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] On 8 December, His Excellency [H.E.] Hor Namhong foreign minister of the State of Cambodia [SOC] and member of the Supreme National Council, received for talks Claude Cheysson, member of the French Socialist Party and member of the European Parliament in charge of the EC Parliamentary Committee for Foreign Affairs and Security, who was seeking an understanding of the current situation, particularly the [words indistinct].

H.E. Hor Namhong talked about the real situation in Cambodia and the progress in the implementation of the Paris agreement over the past year because he realized that during the week-long visit to the SOC, Claude Cheysson had talked to many SOC leaders and visited various provinces. H.E. Hor Namhong in particular talked about the intransigence of the Khmer Rouge who refuse to abide by the agreement [words indistinct]. He also profoundly welcomed the decision by the UN Security Council; he said these measures should be further firmly consolidated. H.E. Hor Namhong appealed for Thailand-UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] cooperation to impose the most stringent sanctions on the Khmer Rouge.

Concerning the organization of future elections in Cambodia, H.E. Hor Namhong stressed the SOC concern over possible Khmer Rouge harassment during the UN-organized general elections. We should also think carefully about Cambodia's future following the elections. We still need a great deal of aid from the international community.

Replying, Claude Cheysson profoundly thanked H.E. Hor Namhong for allowing him and his colleagues to pay the visit and for providing much important information. Claude Cheysson carefully noted the information and promised to forward it to the international community so that Cambodia's requests are met from the time before the elections until the time after the elections.

UNTAC Criticized at 10 Dec SNC Meeting

BK1412110792 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 13 Dec 92

[From the "News in Brief" feature: "Remarks on the Meeting of the Supreme National Council on 10 December 1992"]

[Text] 1. On 10 December, another meeting of the Supreme National Council [SNC] was held with Akashi as chairman.

2. His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and SNC chairman, is still sick and did not attend. Khieu Samphan, chairman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea and SNC member, did not attend. Prince Norodom Ranariddh, chairman of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Party and SNC member, also did not attend. The Phnom Penh side also did not attend. The Phnom Penh side did not attend because it was so tangled up in taking measures along with Vietnam to put down the people's demonstration in Phnom Penh. His Excellency [H.E.] Son Sann made an effort to attend in order to fight for important points.

3. The meeting was held in a dry atmosphere. Akashi and Sanderson were left staring at each other because important players were not present, in particular their followers in the SNC.

4. At the meeting Akashi reiterated that in Cambodia there are no Vietnamese. General Sanderson echoed this, saying: There are no Vietnamese in Cambodia.

Those in the know ask this question: Why do Akashi and Sanderson attempt to talk among themselves saying that there are no Vietnamese? Why was this statement made in such a hurried, panicky manner? There must be something behind the panicky efforts at this SNC meeting to tell others that there are no Vietnamese. People clearly know that over the past year, the Cambodian nation, people, and national resistance forces have called for the correct implementation of the Paris agreement by verifying that all types of Vietnamese aggressors are withdrawn from Cambodia. However Akashi and Sanderson have implemented a strategy of maintaining Vietnamese aggressor forces in Cambodia; they continue to say that there are no Vietnamese in Cambodia.

The Cambodian nation, people, and national resistance forces have demanded that Akashi and Sanderson give a genuine role to the SNC so that UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] and the SNC cooperate in verifying that all types of Vietnamese aggressor forces are withdrawn from Cambodia. Despite repeated demands by the Cambodian nation, people, and national resistance forces, Akashi and Sanderson have given no role whatsoever to the SNC. Why have Akashi and Sanderson acted this way? This is because:

If the SNC is given the role of the legitimate, sole source of power in Cambodia during the transitional period, the State of Cambodia, Vietnam's puppet, would no longer exist. Important ministries would be in UNTAC's hands. Thus, UNTAC and the SNC can verify the existence of the Vietnamese aggressor forces. The Cambodian nation and people rely on the role of the SNC and cooperation with UNTAC in order to declare, and point the finger at, the exact location of the Vietnamese. However, since the goal of the strategy of Vietnam and its allies in and outside UNTAC is to allow Vietnam to continue occupying Cambodia in order to prop up Vietnam's puppet regime, Akashi, Sanderson, and their acccomplices have not given any role to the SNC.

It is this situation that greatly angers the Cambodian nation and people and people from all strata in Phnom Penh and other places. This is why there were massive demonstrations in Phnom Penh in December 1991. Later on, people in Phnom Penh, particularly students and people around Phnom Penh, rose up against the Vietnamese aggressors, the puppet leaders, and UNTAC leaders. It is in this new situation that Akashi and Sanderson have made efforts to successively shout out that there are no Vietnamese in Cambodia, there are no Vietnamese in Cambodia. This is in order to lessen the anger of people in Phnom Penh as well as that of those throughout the country.

However, the truth remains. The issue of old and new Vietnamese remains a concrete one. This is a concrete and immediate danger to the survival of the Cambodian nation and people and the Cambodian race. It is not a fable; it is not a story made up by Democratic Kampuchea; it is the business of all the national resistance forces. In short it is the business of the entire Cambodian nation and people. It is also a matter affecting security in the region.

If Akashi, Sanderson, and clique, and the Vietnamese aggressors do not solve this situation, a succession of bad consequences will follow both in Cambodia and in the region. This is also bad for Akashi and Sanderson themselves. It also spoils UNTAC's name.

V.H.E. Son Sann also spoke at this SNC meeting. He is a patriotic personality, who constantly and firmly adheres to a nationalist stance. He has a lot of experience and a clear and very profound knowledge of the Vietnamese. Thus, when Akashi and Sanderson said grossly that there are no Vietnamese aggressors in Cambodia, H.E. Son Sann immediately spoke against this view, venting angry opposition to Akashi and Sanderson.

People can sum up as follows: The 10 December meeting again confirmed with particular clarity that there are two opposing forces concerning the agreement, especially on the issue of Vietnam's aggression, occupation, and annexation of Cambodian territory. One side, which consists of the Vietnamese aggressors, puppets, Akashi, Sanderson, and their allies in and outside UNTAC, stubbornly insist on implementing a strategy allowing the old Vietnamese forces to be in Cambodia and also bringing new forces to Cambodia in order to prop up the puppet regime in Cambodia and use this regime as a cover on stage.

But now the faces of Akashi and Sanderson, and those of a few major powers in and outside UNTAC, have been unmasked. There is no longer any secret; their faces are increasingly stinking.

The other side is that of the Cambodian nation, people, and national resistance forces, and the peace- and justice-loving people and countries the world over, particularly those who are sincere toward the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement. The latter force is growing larger and larger in their political views, organizations, and activities aimed at opposing the former force and fighting for the correct implementation of all the clauses of the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement, particularly the ones on the role of the SNC, the verification of the Vietnamese aggressors, UNTAC's control of the five ministries, and the establishment of a neutral political atmosphere for organizing proper, free, and democratic elections in Cambodia.

SRV Envoy's Attending SNC Meeting Questioned

BK1412113792 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Text] It was reported that the head of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] Mr. Akashi invited the Yuon [Vietnamese] ambassador in Phnom Penh to attend the 10 December meeting of Cambodia's Supreme National Council [SNC]. Mr. Akashi let the Yuon ambassador take the floor of the meeting to lodge a protest and affirm that the Yuon no longer have any of their aggressor forces in Cambodia.

Diplomatic circles and observers monitoring the Cambodia problem were of the opinion that the identical views expressed by Mr. Akashi and the Yuon clearly show that UNTAC leaders and the Yuon aggressors are on excellent terms with one another and are colluding to maintain the presence of the Yuon aggressor forces and Yuon settlers in Cambodia and indicate that UNTAC will not verify the withdrawal of the Yuon aggressor forces from Cambodia.

The Yuon aggressors have no right to attend SNC meetings. The SNC is a legitimate organization and the unique source of power in Cambodia representing Cambodia's sovereignty during the transitional period. UNTAC's invitation to the Yuon aggressors to attend the meeting and hold discussions with the SNC constitutes an encroachment on the SNC and a violation of

Cambodia's sovereignty. It is also an attempt to sabotage the Paris Agreement and the SNC, turning the SNC meeting into a stage for UNTAC and the Yuon aggressors to jointly defend the presence of the latter in Cambodia and to jointly protect their puppet regime and the steady flow into Cambodia of more than 2 million Yuon people.

Mr. Akashi and the Yuon ambassador jointly announced that there are no Yuon aggressor forces in Cambodia. This is a lie made in broad daylight. It can fool neither the Cambodioan people nor world opinion. The Yuon ambassador himself is an aggressor force in Cambodia. There is no need to look for any further proof. It is this Yuon ambassador himself who, together with other Yuon aggressor experts and advisers, is controlling and commanding puppets Hun Sen, Chea Sim, and Heng Samrin. This is no secret to foreign oberservers. It was clearly acknowledged recently by Mr.(Esan Sunli), a politician and author, in his statement at a conference before the Asian Studies Center in Washington DC.

The Cambodian people both inside the country and abroad as well as the international community, which wants to see peace restored in the region, demand that UNTAC implement the 23 October 1991 Paris Agreement in its entirety, especially:

1. That it verifies that all Yuon aggressor forces withdraw from Cambodia; and

2. That the SNC fully plays its role as the legitimate organization and unique source of power in Cambodia in order to cooperate with UNTAC in implementing the Agreement comprehensively, especially in verifying that all Yuon aggressor forces withdraw from Cambodia.

Sihanouk Issues 'Political Terrorism' Statement

BK1512044592 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 14 Dec 92

['Gist' of statement by Prince Norodom Sihanouk issued in Beijing on 13 December—read by announcer]

[Text] On 13 December in Beijing, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC], issued a statement stressing that if UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] and the Phnom Penh faction continue to contaminate the political atmosphere and oppress and kill members of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Party and the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF], and if social injustices and political terrorism continue to prevail under the high responsibility of UNTAC and the Phnom Penh faction, then the samdech will cease to work with UNTAC and the Phnom Penh faction. Here is the gist of this statement:

1. A few days ago, officials of the FUNCINPEC Party in various provinces continued to become victims of brutal attacks by people with dark political motivations, but UNTAC was unable to take any action.

2. Recently, in Banteay Meanchey Province, people lobbed hand grenades into the FUNCINPEC office, wounding two FUNCINPEC members—one seriously and another slightly. On the afternoon of 12 December 1992 in Svay Rieng Province, some individuals took away a FUNCINPEC official and removed one of his eyeballs in broad daylight right in front of UNTAC policemen.

It is true that I am the neutral chairman of the SNC and I have no political party. But I cannot stand by silently while confronted with the multiplication of political terrorist acts and the continuation of politically motivated crimes. Concerning this matter, I must conclude that UNTAC and the Phnom Penh faction's State of Cambodia [SOC], the two bodies most responsible for the implementation of the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement in its entirety or correctly to a certain limit, are incapable or unwilling to install genuine democracy and peace in my country.

If UNTAC and the Phnom Penh faction's SOC fail to take any action to stop the contamination of the political atmosphere and the oppression of FUNCINPEC, the KPNLF, and so forth, and if these two bodies continue the social injustices and political terrorism, I, Norodom Sihanouk will cease to work with UNTAC and the Phnom Penh faction's SOC.

Issued in Beijing on 13 December 1992.

Khieu Samphan, Son Sen Comment

BK1612005092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Letter dated 14 December from Khieu Samphan and Son Sen supporting Prince Sihanouk's 13 and 14 December 1992 statements—read by announcer]

[Text] On 14 December 1992, His Excellency [H.E.] Khieu Samphan, chairman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] and H.E. Son Sen, vice chairman of the PDK, in a letter to Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC], voiced their full support for the prince's 13 and 14 December 1992 statements. The following is the content of the letter:

To Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and SNC chairman, in Beijing.

Revered samdech: We have read your 13 December 1992 and 14 December 1992 statement attentively. We express our full support for your two statements and pledge to respect and follow you according to the significance of the statements.

Availing ourselves of this opportunity, we wish you all the best and request that you have a good rest and receive further medical treatment until you recover completely, as your health and life are directly linked to the destiny of our nation and people.

Samdech, please, accept our profoundest respects.

[Dated] 14 December 1992.
[Signed] Khieu Samphan, Son Sen.

Akashi Assures Sihanouk of UN Commitment 15 Dec

BK1512130592 Hong Kong AFP in English 1234 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Pursat, Cambodia, Dec 15 (AFP)—The chief of the U.N. peacekeeping operation in Cambodia, Yasushi Akashi, said Tuesday he had written to Prince Norodom Sihanouk to assure him that he was doing everything possible to ensure a neutral political environment.

The prince, in a letter to Akashi on Monday, threatened to stop working with the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) if it did not stop "political terrorism" in Cambodia.

Parties in opposition to the Phnom Penh government have found themselves harassed, bombed and intimidated in more than a dozen incidents in recent weeks. Several party workers have been assassinated.

Akashi was speaking to Cambodian political party representatives in this central provincial capital.

"I wrote back (to Prince Sihanouk) assuring him of UNTAC's total commitment" to ending political intimidation and assassinations, Akashi said.

I think it is vital Cambodians say goodbye to these very unfortunate traditions of the past," he said. "I would like to emphasize that UNTAC will do everything possible to protect political offices of all parties registered with UNTAC."

Akashi said U.N. civilian police could be stationed in the vicinity of party offices under threat as early as next week to provide "an element of additional security."

The action would be taken before the end of the year.

Sihanouk Denies Plan To Take Over Power

BK1512134592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 15 Dec 92

["Statement by His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Beijing 14 December 1992"—read by announcer]

[Text] Over the past few days in Cambodia, particularly in Phnom Penh City, there have been rumors saying that I am perhaps preparing to take over power on the day I return from Beijing to Phnom Penh without taking into consideration the interests of the State of Cambodia [SOC] regime and the Cambodian People's Party [CPP]. On this matter, I would like to vehemently deny this false news, a pure fabrication of some individuals in Cambodia.

In fact, on the one hand, the SOC Government and the CPP, as well as the other three parties in the Cambodian Supreme National Council—namely the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Party, the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, and the Party of Democratic Kampuchea—continue to have my affection and consideration; and on the other hand, I will always respect the essence and spirit of the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement on Cambodia.

If my health allows, I will compete in the presidential election as one among other candidates in April or May 1993. From now until then, I will not hold any power in Cambodia.

[Signed] Norodom Sihanouk

Sihanouk Appeals for Food Aid To Fight Famine

BK1612123092 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 16 Dec 92

["Appeal by His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council;" dated Beijing 16 December—read by announcer]

[Text] May I be allowed to ask respected governments of wealthy and developed countries the world over and friends of the Cambodian people to provide food to the Cambodian people who are facing worrying food shortage toward the end of 1992 as well as in 1993 despite their all-out farming efforts. The harvest of paddy in 1992 is meager. This was caused by serious drought at the beginning of the rainy season and at the end of the farming season.

My people will need over 200,000 tonnes of paddy to avoid famine in many areas throughout the country. I adamantly appeal to all governments to provide food to the hard-working Cambodian people, particularly to peasants who will face famine.

As for the aid which governments have agreed to provide to Cambodia, I ask that these governments send their representatives to directly distribute to the poorest Cambodian people.

On behalf of the people and in my own name, I would like to express profound respect for this generous gesture and compassion of the aid donors.

[Dated] Beijing, 16 December 1992
[Signed] Norodom Sihanouk

UN Sanction Resolution Against DK Clarified

BK1412121592 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Unattributed "Clarification of the UN Security Council's Resolution To Impose Sanctions on the Party of Democratic Kampuchea"[DK]]

[Text] I. The UN Security Council recently adopted a resolution which has created heavy pressure and observations, especially pressure against the party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] and Thailand. II. What has been the analysis of this matter by national and international public opinion so that it has come to clearly see its true nature and prevent the Yuon [Vietnamese], their puppets, their allies inside and outside the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia], and other bad elements from deceiving others through various means at their disposal in order to suppress and oppress other people?

National and international public opinion has the following observations:

A. The UN Security Council's resolution plans to impose sanctions on the PDK by banning the shipment of oil into the PDK areas, restricting Thai businessmen from making deals with the PDK, checking the transportation of logs from Cambodia to Thailand, and prescribing that the elections will be held with just three parties.

B. Some national and international public opinion views the aforementioned sanctions and restrictions as a biased and unfair action and a violation of both the spirit and principle of international law and the 23 October 1991 Paris Agreement. This is because, on the one hand, Democratic Kampuchea [DK] is the one who has implemented and insisted on the implementation of the 23 October 1991 Paris Agreement in its entirety, particularly the clause that calls for the Supreme National Council [SNC] to play its role as the legitimate organization and sole source of power in Cambodia during the transitional period, the clause on verifying the total withdrawal of Yuon aggressor forces from Cambodia, the clause on UNTAC taking over the five key ministries, the clause on creating a neutral political atmosphere for holding a free, democratic, and correct general election, and the clause on enabling Cambodia to regain genuine peace, independence, and sovereignty.

The UN Security Council has taken punitive measures against the PDK, which has worked very hard to thoroughly implement, and has demanded the strict implementation of, the 23 October 1991 Paris Agreement. But it has not punished, nor has it said anything about, the Yuon aggressors, the Phnom Penh regime installed by the Yuon since 1979, and the UNTAC leaders themselves, who have opposed the Paris Agreement, trying to turn this four-party agreement into just a one-party agreement, refusing to let the SNC play any role, failing to verify the withdrawal of Yuon aggressor forces from Cambodia, constantly claiming that there were no Yuon, and declining to take over the five key ministries of the Phnom Penh regime, thus allowing this regime to remain master of both the public and secret police forces and to constantly create an atmosphere of insecurity and fascism. On the contrary, the UN Security Council has even colluded with the Yuon aggressors and Phnom Penh puppets in bullying and mistreating other people.

National and international public opinion holds that such measures are unfair and constitute part of a brutal, evil law based simply on the premise that one has bigger strength and has more money and means to put pressure on and gag the mouths of other people in accordance with their devilish practice.

C. Some other national and international public opinions hold that this UN Security Council resolution on the DK is not a unanimous resolution of the UN Security Council and does not represent the United Nations itself because it was arranged by only three superpowers plus a former superpower, namely, France, the United Staes, Britain, and Russia. Therefore, the United Nations, whose nearly 170 member countries represent world public opinion as a whole, has become a power concentrated in the hands of merely three to four superpowers who can manage and control the national destiny of all countries and peoples in the world in whichever way they like.

D. At the UN Security Council meeting during which this resolution on Cambodia was adopted, China made its position clearly known as follows:

1. No sanctions should be imposed on any one Cambodian faction.
2. The elections in Cambodia should not be held among only three factions.
3. China is of the opinion that while sanctions cannot settle the issue, they will sharpen differences and contradictions and may even cause new complications which are too difficult to resolve; and they are of the opinion that this issue should be settled correctly and thoroughly in line with the Paris Agreement.

These are the reasons for China's disagreement with the UN Security Council's resolution on Cambodia. China has showed its opposition to the sanctions by abstaining from voting for the resolution.

III. The question is that, while this arbitrary resolution was adopted by these three to four superpowers to impose pressures on a Cambodian nation and people who are resolute in wanting to live and not to die, will the problem be settled through the strategy and scheme of these three to four superpowers?

Experiences drawn from the struggle waged by the Cambodian nation and people against the Yuon aggressors for the past 14 years and more show that the Yuon aggressors, believed to be most skillful in war, have now suffered shameful defeats before the eyes of the Cambodian nation and people, the international community, and history. All of this has already been inscribed in the book of history, particularly the implementation of the 23 October 1991 Paris Agreement, which has been transformed by the joint efforts of the Yuon aggressor forces, their puppet lackeys, and the allies both inside and outside UNTAC from a four-party Paris Agreement into a single-party agreement. However, this too has been shamefully defeated before the eyes of the Cambodian nation and people, the world, and history. As the Yuon see their name stink more and more, UNTAC and Mr. Akashi also begin to gain notoriety.

The Cambodian nation and people have many experiences in, and a long record of, struggles for national honor, for their right to self-determination, and for a Cambodia with genuine peace, independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

The UN charter also clearly stipulates this. And on the first page of the UN charter, one can see these words about the peace, independence, and sovereignty of each country, of each member of the United Nations.

The Cambodian nation and people will always remember that one must fight to survive; if one does not fight, one dies. The more we are united in struggle, the greater chance we have to survive. The Cambodian nation and people do not want to win over anyone. We only want the four-party, not a single-party, implementation of the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement. Only when the four parties take part in the implementation can there be national reconciliation and national concord both now and for the long-term.

The Cambodian nation and people do not want to take even a square inch of Vietnamese territory. All we want is to fully preserve our own territory, people, and race.

We would like all mankind across the world to please pass judgment on this matter.

Defense Ministry Spokesman on KR Offensives

BK1412130192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 14 Dec 92

["Communique of the spokesman of the State of Cambodia's Defense Ministry;" date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] In the first and second week of December 1992, after the UN Security Council adopted resolutions imposing economic sanctions against the Khmer Rouge on 30 November 1992, and as part of a maneuver—planned a long time ago—to disobey and destroy the Paris agreement, the Khmer Rouge launched large-scale military offensives successively violating positions of the State of Cambodia [SOC] troops in many places and directions. Along with this the Khmer Rouge also carried out criminal and murderous acts against our troops and people, resulting in many dead or wounded among the people; a large amount of property and houses was also damaged.

More serious still, at 0500 on 9 December 1992, the Khmer Rouge used artillery support fire and infantry troops to launch a three-pronged attack to violate and seize the position of Battambang Province's 8th (?Battalion) of the Cambodian People's Army [CPA] in Ta Hen and (Pongro Louk) in Bavel district, Battambang Province. Three of our CPA combatants were killed and seven others wounded; 10 people were also wounded and three houses damaged.

On the same day, the Khmer Rouge also fired nearly 100 DK-75 shells and H-107 rockets on people's houses in Kompong Snok, Kompong Cham, Sangke Veal, Tuol Sla, Kdol Leu, and Kdol Kraom villages in Bavel district, wounding a villager and an UNTAC Dutch soldier; many people's houses were burned or damaged.

The above violations to extend territory, and the savage and barbarous crimes of the Khmer Rouge have made people in these areas, who were harvesting rice, face serious problems. Hundreds of families are fleeing with no food and shelters in order to escape the massacre by the Khmer Rouge.

On 11 December, another group of Khmer Rouge infiltrated into Tang Kouk village in Kranhung commune, Baray district, Kompong Thom Province, and assassinated (Veng Siek-heng), member of the Kompong Thom provincial committee.

These recent violations, activities aimed at seizing positions and expanding territory, and the brutal crimes of the Khmer Rouge against the CPA side, people, and state authority living and working in the zones under the SOC control show that the Khmer Rouge absolutely do not abide by the Paris agreement and that they do not want national reconciliation and peace for the people, country, and nation.

The SOC Defense Ministry appeals to UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] to use its rights and immediately stop the above violations by the Khmer Rouge. The SOC Defense Ministry would like to declare that we will use the right to defend ourselves and absolutely will not let the Khmer Rouge carry on these violations.

Peacekeepers Said Redeployed to 'Sensitive Areas'

BK1512110092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1053 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Dec 15 (AFP)—The United Nations is redeploying its infantry battalions to boost the peacekeepers' military presence in Cambodia's sensitive areas and to provide better support for the U.N. electoral process, U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said Tuesday.

Quick-reaction forces will also be established throughout the country, ready to deploy immediately in emergency situations, Falt said.

The redeployment will, in most cases, conform with provincial boundaries and will be based on potential threats to the electoral registration process, Falt said.

"Threats range from a minefield to attack on U.N. personnel by both bandits or military elements," he said.

Large areas that are relatively free of conflict will require smaller concentrations of U.N. troops.

But the Blue Berets will increase their patrols where threats are more likely, and some military personnel in these dangerous areas will be deployed with civilian registration teams on a permanent basis.

"The soliders who will be deployed there, unlike the civilian police, will be fully armed" Falt said.

The toughening of the United Nations' stance has been welcomed by many Cambodians and a number of U.N. personnel who felt the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) was beginning to lose its "immune status" and was being perceived as a "paper tiger."

UNTAC chief Yasushi Akashi, who recently stated that a "climate of fear and intimidation" prevailed throughout the country, recommended the change to foster a general sense of security among Cambodians, as well as to protect voter registration and the polling process, Falt said.

The move also follows the latest U.N. Security Council resolution on Cambodia.

"The resolution asked UNTAC to deal with the implications of the failure of the PDK (Khmer Rouge) to canton and demobilise its forces and, in response to this situation, to take all appropriate steps to ensure the successful implementation of the electoral process" Falt said.

The U.N. peacekeepers had originally been deployed to implement the crucial Phase Two of the Cambodian peace accords, which call for the demobilisation of 70 percent of the country's estimated 200,000 combatants.

The Khmer Rouge's refusal to participate has brought the process to a virtual halt.

Khmer Rouge intransigence combined with ongoing ceasefire violations also caused most of the Phnom Penh government forces to drift back to their units.

Renewed fighting between the Khmer Rouge and Phnom Penh forces prompted both Akashi's recent call for military restraint and the U.N. redeployment, aimed at securing a secure enviroment for the elections scheduled for next May.

Corruption Charges, Sihanouk, Security Viewed

BK1612075592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] On 15 December, Uch Kim-an, deputy minister of the Council of Ministers' office and spokesman of the State of Cambodia [SOC] Government; and General Pan Thai, adviser to the SOC prime minister, held a news conference with the participation of local and foreign reporters and television correspondents and representatives from embassies and international organizations accredited to Cambodia.

On this occasion, Uch Kim-an told reporters about the situation under which AFP correspondents on 21 November 1992—without foundation—accused Khim Bo, administrator of Sihanoukville, of corruption. After receiving a complaint from Khim Bo, His Excellency [H.E.] Yasushi Akashi wrote a reply letter stressing that the cooperation between UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] and Sihanoukville should not be affected by unfounded news articles. The UNTAC chief also said that reports disseminated by these correspondents were completely outside UNTAC's responsibility.

Uch Kim-an also talked about documents from a meeting in Battambang town between UNTAC and representatives of the SOC, Son Sann's party, and FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], concerning the recent bomb explosions at the FUNCINPEC offices in Battambang Province. UNTAC's report clearly specified that at this meeting, representatives of the FUNCINPEC Party voiced support for the SOC representative's view that the Khmer Rouge are to blame for causing insecurity. One cannot remain indifferent to Khmer Rouge activities because the Khmer Rouge have brought their forces into the province. Therefore, one can conclude that the Khmer Rouge attacked the FUNCINPEC offices because the Khmer Rouge have accused FUNCINPEC of being close to the SOC side.

Regarding the case of a victim, a member of the FUNCINPEC Party, in Svay Rieng Province—a case believed to be politically related—Uch Kim-an specified that the local authority and UNTAC did not know about the cause of this matter. However, the victim was brought to Phnom Penh for medical treatment. A few days ago, reporters interviewed this victim. On whether this affair is related to politics, Uch Kim-an stressed that we should not talk about it because it could poison the atmosphere.

As for the case of the AFP correspondents' reports accusing officials in Sihanoukville of corruption, this matter has been denied and dismissed by UNTAC officials in Sihanoukville and by Akashi. Furthermore, conflicts among individuals have been blamed on the authorities and blown into big political issues about which the local authority and UNTAC were not at all aware. Therefore, are these accusations proper? Uch

Kim-an stressed that those who reported all this to the samdech [Sihanouk] lied and poisoned the political atmosphere. The SOC Government spokesman further noted that reporters should not exaggerate, poison the political atmosphere, or blow stories out of proportion.

Concerning the trip to Beijing by His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian People's Party and the SOC National Assembly, to inquire about the health of His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Uch Kim-an stressed that H.E. Chea Sim's trip to Beijing was planned for some time. We have heard that the prince father is ill, so the SOC planned to send a delegation to visit him. It is Cambodia's usual and traditional custom to visit and inquire about the health of the prince father as he is a parent and elder. Our SOC leadership planned to visit the prince even before the prince issued his statements.

At this news conference, many reporters focused on the plan to stage demonstrations. Uch Kim-an stated to local and foreign reporters that according to information we have received, a newly established party has asked to stage demonstrations. However, we know that this party has received Khmer Rouge support.

The SOC National Security Ministry on 14 December appealed to our people not to be taken in by the deceitful propaganda of instigators who attempt to destroy the Paris peace agreement and national reconciliation and create instability in our people's lives. Uch Kim-an also pointed out that according to various reports, those who plan to stir up demonstrations and unrest have received financial support and assistance from the Khmer Rouge.

Also speaking at the news conference, General Pan Thai, adviser to the SOC prime minister, gave a brief account of the military and security situation. He pointed out that over the past few days the Khmer Rouge launched offensives on the positions of the Cambodian People's Army [CPA] and destroyed people's villages. The situation is tense in Kompong Thom and Siem Reap Provinces. This is particularly the result of artillery support fire and the use of infantry troops to attack, violate, and seize the CPA positions in Ta Hen and Pongro Leu in Bavel District, Battambang Province. Our side sustained serious damage in the incident.

Since 1 December, Khmer Rouge violations have resulted in wounding 16 of our combatants and policemen and killing nine soldiers; 19 civilians were wounded. Five of our positions were attacked and seized. General Pan Thai called the Khmer Rouge violations serious and most brutal.

CPP Gives UNTAC Ultimatum on Flags of Rivals

BK1612045092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0437 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] KOMPONG CHAM, Cambodia, Dec 16 (AFP)—U.N. officials worked Wednesday to defuse a potentially violent dispute in this populous Cambodian province over the flags opposition parties may fly over their offices.

Cambodian People's Party [CPP] officials of the Phnom Penh government sent an ultimatum to the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) provincial director telling him opposition parties in the region had until 5:00 P.M. Wednesday to remove their flags.

Otherwise the flags would be taken down forcibly at 7:30 A.M. Thursday, the ultimatum warned.

Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC), which groups the previously warring factions, has ruled all political parties may fly their flags at their offices no matter which faction controls the territory.

The U.N. provincial director, Dieter Von Samson, said Phnom Penh authorities would not allow the parties to fly the SNC flag either.

UNTAC chief Yasushi Akashi, who was visiting here Tuesday, intervened with provincial governor Hun Neng, the brother of Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen, to ask him not to use force against other political parties.

In a discussion outside the headquarters of the Indian battalion of U.N. peacekeepers, Akashi told Hun Neng any flag of any party—including that of the SNC—could be flown on buildings used by opposition parties.

"There is no need to have the permission of any government to have the implementation of this rule adopted by the SNC," Akashi said.

But Hun Neng said he considered the flags to be those of rival factions, not of their political parties, and would therefore take them down. He said he was acting on orders from his brother.

"Please discuss this at a higher level," he told Akashi.

Akashi asked Hun Neng not to allow his forces to enter any political party office without UNTAC's permission and said he would speak with the prime minister.

In case UNTAC could not defuse the tension, "we'll be out here," said the U.N. civilian police's chief superintendent W.S. Elley.

Flags were likewise an issue in central Pursat Province where Akashi also visited Tuesday.

Upon arriving by helicopter, Akashi and U.N. officials found the Phnom Penh government's flag flying alongside the blue banner of the United Nations.

"It should be the flag of the SNC, which symbolizes national reconciliation," Akashi said, calling the episode "somewhat unfortunate" because it could give a perception of non-neutrality for UNTAC.

An UNTAC provincial official said the government flag was put up just ahead of Akashi's visit without the peacekeepers' knowledge.

The chief election official in Pursat, Alemayehu Seifu, told Akashi that Cambodians perceived UNTAC as weak.

"UNTAC is seen as less than forceful when it comes to the (Khmer Rouge), when it comes to the Vietnemese presence, and that at the end of the process we'll leave them helpless," Seifu said.

Seifu also said UNTAC was failing to pay Cambodians hired to help register voters, undermining confidence in the body.

Some 78 of the province's 176 local staff have not yet been paid despite several months of work.

"People are paying from our pockets to keep the registration people at work," he said.

The same problem came up in Kompong Cham, where U.N. electoral supervisors threatened to march on UNTAC headquarters in Phnom Penh in November if their staff was not paid.

The threat brought some money, but not all, U.N. officials said.

Of 1,000 employees, 300 were not paid salaries in November and a number had not been paid in four months. Akashi promised to speed up payments.

In a third province, Kompong Chhnang, where UNTAC officials removed the provincial governor on corruption charges earlier this year, Akashi was told the vice still exsisted "on a large scale."

"Although we rightly obtained the removal of the governor, it's still a problem," UNTAC provincial director Tom Ganiatsos said.

Ranariddh on Factions' Provincial Representation

BK1612093692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0923 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Dec 16 (AFP)—The head of the royalist FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] party has asked the head of the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Cambodia, Yasushi Akashi, to take firm control of Phnom Penh secret police who are allegedly carrying out political attacks on FUNCINPEC members.

And as a way of doing this, Prince Norodom Ranariddh backed a long-standing demand of the Khmer Rouge to put representatives of the four Cambodian factions in every province to deal with security issues.

The radical Khmer Rouge have kept out of the peace process, demanding among other things more political power in the provinces.

The request, in a letter to Akashi seen Wednesday, said that such "quadi-partite committees" could only help the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) carry out its work ensuring a neutral political environment.

UNTAC is trying to create a fair environment in order to hold elections in May 1993. But dozens of politically motivated attacks against FUNCINPEC and other factions have seriously marred the atmosphere.

UNTAC, under the peace plan ending the Cambodian civil war, is charged with taking control over all factions' five key areas of governance, including interior and public security affairs.

"As you well know, the Interior Ministry of the Phnom Penh party is left without UNTAC control," Prince Ranariddh wrote. "It is this ministry that has the power over provincial administrations and those of districts and sub-districts," he said.

"It is also this ministry that is concerned with elections issues. And it will do everything in order not to lose them."

Prince Ranariddh also asked that UNTAC countesign all ministry documents pertaining to security issues.

FUNCINPEC offices in western provinces have been bombed, while workers in eastern areas have been assassinated, with one having his eye gouged out in Svay Rieng Province last week.

"The multiplication of these acts of premeditated aggression is now reaching the limit of tolerance," he wrote.

"While FUNCINPEC is continuing, as in the past, to cooperate sincerely with UNTAC and yourself, it will henceforth no longer be possible for us in the current situation to continue to expose the lives of our members to these criminal acts and to endure them without reacting."

There was no immediate reponse from Akashi.

Indonesia

Minister Views Trade Relations With Netherlands

BK1512154992 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0700 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Trade Minister Arifin Siregar says that public concern over discontinuance of the Netherlands' economic assistance some time ago might have affected trade, investment, tourism, and other economic sectors. Speaking to reporters after he accompanied Netherlands Minister of Foreign Trade van Rooy to meet with President Suharto at the Bina Graha presidential office, Minister Siregar said the Netherlands' discontinuance of economic assistance should no longer be discussed because bilateral trade is not affected. The minister pointed out that bilateral trade had continued steadily in the past few years.

[Begin Siregar recording] Instead of being reduced, trade volume between Indonesia and the Netherlands has increased in the past few years. Both Indonesia's imports and exports have increased to a satisfactory level. As you already know, we have always had a considerable surplus in our trade with the Netherlands in the past few years. For example, in 1991 our exports stood at U.S. $838 million, while imports stood at $505 million, which means that we had a trade surplus of about $333 million. Some of our exports to the Netherlands are not recorded because they are done through a third country. Therefore, the total trade surplus is even higher than what I just mentioned. [end recording]

Minister Siregar said the current visit to Indonesia by Netherlands Minister van Rooy is aimed at attending a joint commission meeting which discusses all bilateral economic activities, including trade, investment, and tourism without touching on the aid discontinuance issue.

Armed Forces Respond To Earthquake; Death Toll at 2,484

BK1512153892 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1500 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] The death toll from earthquake and subsequent tidal waves which hit four districts in East Nusatenggara province last Saturday continues to rise. As this news is aired, the total casualties stand at 2,484 dead and 484 injured. Thousands of buildings are seriously damaged.

Indonesian Armed Forces [ABRI] units, civilian people, and youths grouped in the Joint Task Force continued to search remains of earthquake victims and they found 345 dead bodies on the fourth day after the tremors. Reports which reached the governor office's operations center today said an additional 131 dead bodies were found in Sikka district, 199 in Ende district, and 155 in East Flores district. The earthquake death toll in the Sikka District continues to rank highest among three other districts, namely at 1,425, followed by that in Ende and East Flores. East Nusatenggara Governor Hendrikus Fernandez said ABRI personnel had buried remains of the earthquake victims in mass burial grounds.

Quake Strikes South Sulawesi

BK1612074292 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0715 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Listeners! We just received a report from Ujung Pandang, South Sulawesi, that (Kalotua) island was hit by an earthquake today. A RRI correspondent from Ujung Pandang reports as follows:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] Similar to the town of Maumere, East Nusatenggara, which was hit by an earthquake on 12 December, (Kalotua) island, located in the (Tasikmarano) subdistrict, Selayar district, South Sulawesi Province was hit by an earthquake today. Speaking to RRI in Ujung Pandang this morning, (Zaenan Arifin Tami), Selayar district chief, said the natural disaster which hit the (Kalotua) island killed 19 people and destroyed 130 houses and two primary school buildings. The district chief added that due to lack of communications facilities, the reports he received did not include reports about islands located near the (Kalotua) island. (Kalotua) island, located in the Selayar district, South Sulawesi Province, by boat is about 20 hours from [name indistinct] and only about eight hours from East Nusatenggara. Meanwhile, South Sulawesi Governor Ahmad Amiruddin expressed his regret over the tragedy which has affected both Maumere and (Kalotua) island. Therefore, he called on local people to donate relief measures to earthquake victims. The (Kalotua) island has a population of 5,221 people. Relief measures, especially foodstuff and medicine, will hopefully be delivered by the Indonesian Navy ships soon. [end recording]

Laos

Assembly Leader Inspects Election Preparations

BK1612072192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] On 12 December, Thongsing Thammavong, acting chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly and deputy chairman [as heard] of the National-Level Election Committee, inspected preparations for the holding of the election to the third National Assembly in Constituency 8—Houa Phan Province.

He met with members of the provincial election committee and heard a report on all the preparations for the forthcoming 20 December election of members to the third National Assembly from Somphan Phengkhammi, member of the party Central Committee, secretary of the Houa Phan Provincial Party, and governor of Houa Phan Province; as well as from members of the national-level election committee in Constituency 8—Houa Phan Province.

He was told that preparations for the election have been basically completed. First and second stage political campaigns have been held in every village and every canton in six districts throughout the province. The province has a total population of 215,052 citizens of which 96,759 are eligible voters including 49,577 women. Throughout the province, there is a total of 886 polling units. Seven candidates are running for election in this province but only four will be elected as members of the third National Assembly.

The fourth and last stage of the preparations will deal with checking necessary statistics and documents confirming voting rights for eligible voters, preparing venues for election, publicizing election slogans, pasting photographs of candidates, and distributing ballot boxes to various places.

In addition, Thongsing Thammavong also visited and talked to people in Ban Sao Neua, Viangthong District, Houa Phan Province.

Thai-Laos Border Cooperation Committees Meet

BK1612080192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0430 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] The Lao-Thai and Thai-Lao general border peacekeeping cooperation committees held their second meeting at the Lan Xang hotel in Vientiane municipality at 1030 on 15 December. The meeting was cochaired by Lieutenant General Choummali Sai-gnason, minister of national defense of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] and chairman of the border cooperation committee of the Lao side, and Air Chief Marshal [ACM] Woranat Aphichari, Armed Forces supreme commander of the Kingdom of Thailand and chairman of the cooperation committee of the Thai side.

At the meeting, the two sides noted that in the cooperation to maintain peace and order along the Lao-Thai border over the past year, the two sides effectively cooperated in solving remaining problems. Progress has been achieved in the cooperation, as a result of which tranquillity has been constantly maintained along the border areas. The two sides also discussed the cooperation plan for 1993. They have agreed to further improve cooperation. In this regard, the two sides have agreed to assign their border cooperation committees at the provincial level to jointly hold discussions and adopt concrete measures. The meeting proceeded in an atmosphere of good friendship. This has resulted from the improvement and strengthening of the relations between the two countries in all respects and at all levels.

In conclusion, the two sides signed a memorandum of the minutes of the second meeting. The memorandum stipulates as follows:

1. The Lao-Thai and Thai-Lao general border peacekeeping cooperation committees have agreed to continue to practice close cooperation.

2. The national-level committees, together with military operation teams, are to operate the border peacekeeping cooperation mechanism and to direct the border cooperation committees at local or provincial level to urgently hold meetings to discuss the issue.

3. The meeting has acknowledged the effect of the refugee problem on bilateral relations.

4. The meeting has reiterated that the cooperation committees at the provincial level should closely coordinate with each other to check and suppress narcotics trafficking in the border areas.

The meeting also expressed pleasure over the progress achieved in implementing the joint memorandum signed following the meeting in Surat Thani Province on 21-22 August.

On the afternoon of the same day, after the meeting, ACM Woranat Aphichari and delegation left for home by a special air force plane.

ACM Woranat Aphichari and his delegation had arrived in Vientiane on the morning of 15 December. The Thai delegation was warmly welcomed by Lt. Gen. Choummali Sai-gnason, minister of national defense and chairman of the Lao-Thai General Border Peacekeeping Cooperation Committee, and delegation.

Philippines

NUC Recognizes Communist Representative for Talks

HK1612051592 Manila MANILA STANDARD in English 16 Dec 92 p 4

[Report by Merlinda Manalo]

[Text] The National Unification Commission (NUC) has recognized Netherlands-based Luis Jalandoni as the authorized representative of the fragmented communist party in its peace talks with the government.

"We're talking to the person who has the written authority and that is Luis Jalandoni... We don't know if he's the leader or not but he has the authority," NUC chairman Haydee Yorac told Malacanang reporters.

Yorac said the authority had come from Manuel Romero, the president of the National Democratic Front [NDF]. Jalandoni, who is now in Utrecht, Netherlands with self-exiled Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] leader Jose Ma. [Maria] Sison, is the international spokesman of the NDF.

Sison had said that three released communist leaders have no authority to hold peace negotiations with the government. Sison had charged Ricardo Reyes, Benjamin de Vera and Romulo Kintanar with conniving with the government in its psy-war campaign to discredit the CPP central leadership and "decapitate" the organization.

President Ramos had responded by saying that the government will continue with its peace talks with communist rebels despite the rift within the leadership.

Sison had named Jalandoni as the authorized representative of the communist party in its peace talks with the government.

The three local-based rebel leaders, however, accused Sison of being a "mere observer" and denied his charges.

Yorac echoed the President's statement that the internal squabbles of the communist movement will neither "derail nor impair" the government's peace program.

Also yesterday, Yorac lashed out at lawmakers who had filed an amnesty bill. She said, the proposed measure was unconstitutional and "ridiculous."

House Speaker Jose de Venecia earlier filed a bill proposing total and unconditional amnesty for all rebels. The measure is now pending in the House.

"Under the Constitution; amnesty is an executive power. So whatever amnesty bill will be adopted will be unconditional and anyone who thinks about that should read the Constitution first," Yorac said.

Yorac said she was optimistic that Congress would abandon the measure since "it is so ridiculous."

Yorac also said that the Monday massacre in Zamboanga City which led to the deaths of seven villagers will not affect the peace talks with Muslim rebels since the attacks were staged by a "lost command" of the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF].

Survivors had said the heavily armed men in fatigues were members of the so-called lost command of the MNLF but radio reports claimed that the raids in three remote mountain villages in Zamboanga del Sur were done by the local command of the New People's Army, the armed wing of the CPP.

NDF Declares Christmas Cease-Fire

HK1612093392 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] The National Democratic Front [NDF] declared today its own version of a cease-fire during the Christmas and New Year season. This was announced by NDF Secretary General Frank Fernandez, who said the unilateral cease-fire will take effect from midnight on 24 December until midnight on 26 December, then again from midnight on 31 December until midnight on 1 January 1993. Fernandez added that while they will lay down their arms between the said dates, they will remain prepared in anticipation for any attack by government troops. This, he said, would only be for their self-defense. He further stated that it has been their tradition to declare a cease-fire in observance of the Christmas holidays.

CPP-NPA Propaganda Leader Surrenders

HK1612112092 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] A high-ranking Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army [CPP-NPA] official has surrendered to two Western Bulacan Police District personnel reportedly due to a rift within the movement.

Leo Cruz, 19, who resides at Barangay Banga, Malolos, Bulacan and is the leader of the CPP-NPA Propaganda Committee, said that the leftist rebel movement may divide into two factions due to disagreements on principles. Cruz added that many CPP-NPA members have reportedly expressed their willingness to participate in the government's amnesty program.

Thailand

Prasong on KR Sanctions, Burma Border Dispute

BK1512154792 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri says he still does not know the details about Prince Norodom Sihanouk's comment that no countries are sincere about solving the Cambodian problem. Speaking to newsmen at Government House this afternoon, Prasong said Thailand is sincere about solving the problem and wishes to see unity among Cambodian factions. It wants to see Cambodian factions cooperate toward achieving genuine peace for the country.

Asked about help for Thai businessmen whose logging and other businesses in Cambodia must stop once the UN sanctions against the Khmer Rouge [KR] take effect, the minister said the Foreign Ministry has requested a relaxation of the deadline for Thai businessmen so they can take all their equipment and legally felled logs out of Cambodia. Prasong said if there is no positive answer from the United Nations, he will try again. The minister said he has already advised Thai businessmen not to take up new ventures in Cambodia. Nevertheless, he confirmed that the government will try to help Thai businessmen in order to minimize their losses.

Concerning the problem at Hill 491 in Chumphon Province, the foreign minister said the problem should be resolved on the basis of the agreement reached with Burma by the Thai delegation—that is, removal of military troops from Hill 491. The process will take 10 days. As for the next step, he said the Thai border committee will seek more discussions with Burma. The foreign minister said it is difficult to complete the survey for Thai-Burmese border demarcation. It will take a long time since there is still a stretch of 2,000 km of the borderline to be defined. He said, unlike the Thai-Malaysian border, demarcation of the Thai-Burmese border will not be easy. The two countries should set up a joint border committee to tackle the problem step-by-step. In problem-free areas, the borderline should follow the watershed line as was written in the old treaty. Prasong said he believes there will be more discussions between Thailand and Burma after the 25 December deadline for the pullout from Hill 491. The problem should be settled gradually.

Minister Comments on Cambodian Border, Restoration

BK1512075292 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] At the Air Force Headquarters this afternoon, Defense Minister General Wichit Sukmak spoke with newsmen about the Cambodian border. He said the Armed Forces, with coordination from the Border Police Patrol and local administrative officials, are always ready to effectively maintain security along the border and to execute government policies. Wichit said after 31 December the United Nations will dispatch its units to disarm the Cambodian forces and negotiate the peace process, adding that the Supreme Command has rendered fine cooperation on this.

Asked about the allegation that the purpose of the Thai Army engineers' involvement in highway construction was to report on Cambodia, Wichit said the Cambodians have been fighting each other for 31 years and that as a neighboring country and UN member, Thailand will help as it can to restore Cambodia.

Supreme Commander: Cambodian Election To Be Held

BK1512092992 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Supreme Commander Air Chief Marshal Woranat Aphichari said he had received confirmation by the United Nations that a general election would be held in Cambodia next year. He said the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia would remain on duty after the election and would pull out its forces when the government has been formed in Cambodia.

[Begin Woranat recording] The election positively will be held in May next year, with or without the participation of the Khmer Rouge. They think that the population in the areas outside control of the Khmer Rouge, constituting about 90 percent of the overall population, is big enough, and therefore the election should take place. I asked them what the UN forces would do after the election. They told me that, according to the agreement, the forces will remain in Cambodia until the government formation is completed. That means not more than three months. [end recording]

Paper Criticizes Foreign Minister on Khmer Rouge

BK1512121792 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 15 Dec 92 p 8

[Editorial: "Thailand and the Cambodian Problem"]

[Text] The sound of gunfire could be heard once again in Cambodia after it had been quiet for sometime. This was confirmed by UN officials who said the Khmer Rouge had fired mortar rounds on UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] positions and distributed letters warning UNTAC to keep its forces away from the Khmer Rouge-controlled areas. There have been reports of political assasinations in several provinces, believed to be the work of the Khmer Rouge since the victims were politicians running in the election under the political party of Prime Minister Hun Sen. All this signalled that war would return to Cambodia.

If war breaks out in Cambodia, Thailand must try its best not to become a scapegoat for the UN powers. This is because of the image Thailand once had—for not being hostile to the Khmer Rouge because of Thailand's disapproval of Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia—and the image it now has—that of a country doing business with the Khmer Rouge and thus opposed to the UN economic sanctions against it, the sanctions aimed at forcing the Khmer Rouge to participate in the election process.

The Thai Government must clear itself of such perceptions; otherwise, Thailand risks being sanctioned itself by the UN powers—there has already been a report from the EC about a possible boycott of Thai jewelry as Thailand has imported gems from the Khmer Rouge. The foreign minister must work harder in order to clear Thailand of those perceptions. It is not enough just to clamor that Thailand will comply with the UN decision when the deadline arrives—especially as it is generally believed that Thailand has influence over the Khmer Rouge.

The Foreign Ministry should have said whether there had been any attempt to persuade the Khmer Rouge to participate in the election, and whether the effort made was successful. At least, this would make the world know whether it is true, as others think, that Thailand has influence over the Khmer Rouge. It would also reflect Thailand's sincerity toward the United Nations and give confidence to other Cambodian factions thus dispelling their mistrust in Thailand. Thailand, like others, is not entitled to interfere in Cambodia's internal affairs.

The Thai foreign minister must play the game correctly. He should leave it to the commerce minister when the matter concerns trade between Thai businessmen and the Khmer Rouge. The duty of the Foreign Ministry is to prop up Thailand's image and safeguard its interests. When it comes to a clash between economic interests of the Thai people and those of the UN, the foreign minister should play his principal role first according to the duty assigned but not assume all aspects of the responsibility alone since this could be damaging to Thailand's image.

Army Commander Meets UNTAC Chief

BK1612035192 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Army Commander General Wimon Wongwanit has stressed that the Army has never supported the Khmer Rouge. The Army commander made the confirmation during his meeting with Lieutenant General John Sanderson, military commander of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia, at the Army auditorium yesterday afternoon. The Army commander in chief also said that the Army was ready to support the Cambodian peace process for peace in the region. However, he also suggested that the Cambodian problem should be resolved among the Cambodians.

[Begin Wimon recording] I first emphasized that the Army has never supported the Khmer Rouge. Business dealings were conducted by private companies with the government's consent. Second, the Army is willing to comply with the UN Security Council resolution. In sum, the Army will strictly follow the government's policy. [end recording]

Agriculture Minister Defends Logging Concessions

BK1612031592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 16 Dec 92 p A2

[Text] Agriculture Minister Niphon Phromphan yesterday responded cautiously to the Nationnl Security Council (NSC)'s policy to discourage logging in neighbouring countries, saying the deals could continue if those nations granted permits. Niphon said Burma, Laos and Cambodia had the authority to decide whether they would continue trading in logs with Thailand.

Niphon said some countries might not consider that felling trees led to deforestation as they had rules to control logging.

The minister, defending the existing timber concessions in three countries sharing common borders with Thailand, said they were legal so long as the states that awarded the contracts did not seek to revoke them.

Prime Minister Chuan Likphai meanwhile clarified that the government policy was aimed at discouraging illegal log cutting in neighbouring countries as it would cause environmental degradation.

"If there is to be new concessions, they must be approved by the concerned countries," said Chuan.

NSC chief Charan Kunlawanit announced on Monday that the government would no longer support the private sector in exploiting national resources in Laos, Burma and Cambodia. The Chuan administration would step in to control private sector logging deals with those countries by taking into account the impact on their environment. However, Charan said the new policy would not affect existing concessions and that the government could not intervene if the host nations were willing to trade in timber with Thais.

Deputy Finance Minister Bunchu Trithong who recently came under fire from the opposition for his controversial logging business with the Karen minority group said it was impossible now to implement a total ban on cutting timber in the three countries.

Army Warns Politicians Against 'Abusive Remarks'

BK1512034592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 15 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] Deputy Army Chief General San Siphen yesterday warned politicians to watch their mouths, saying that some of them had trampled on the military by making abusive remarks.

"I feel that the military has been trampled on. We will tolerate it to a certain extent only," Gen San said.

He said a certain politician, while commenting on the Thai-Burmese dispute over Hill 491 in Chumphon's Tha Sae District, had said that "waging war was the affair of beasts."

"This could be interpreted to mean that he said that all soldiers who have operated in a battlefield are beasts. Doesn't he realise that in the past soldiers fought for the country? I think politicians should be cautious when commenting on issues. We soldiers also have hearts," Gen San said.

Although the Deputy Army Chief did not mention the politician by name, he apparently referred to Deputy Finance Minister Trairong Suwannakhiri of the Democrat Party, who at the height of the dispute over Hill 491 some two weeks ago reportedly said "only beasts wanted to wage war".

Gen San, however, said he did not mean to say that all politicians are abusive.

"Not all of them are aggressive like that. Most of them understand us well, but some of them should be more cautious before saying anything," he said.

Gen San gave the interview after presiding over the opening of a seminar of about 100 army officers responsible for public relations work. Several guest speakers were invited to the seminar, including well-known television personalities Dr Choemsak Pinthong, Dr Somkiat Onwimon and Suthichai Yun.

Gen San said army public relations personnel need advice because they have not studied in the fields of public relations or journalism. He said since any movement of the Army is important to the morale of the people and their confidence in the country's stability, it is necessary for the Army to have an image that gives the people confidence and security. He reaffirmed that all military personnel have distanced themselves from politics.

Meanwhile, Phalang Tham MP Dr Krasae Chanawong said that the comment by Gen San was a good one because it would warn politicians to be careful about what they say as there is a limit to a soldier's patience.

Deputy Minister Defends Military

BK1512084792 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] The deputy defense minister feels that criticism of the military should be made carefully because the soldiers have already returned to their barracks. At the same time, soldiers should not criticize actions of the government. If politicians want to criticize soldiers they should do so in respectful ways. The deputy defense minister assures that there is currently no strong reaction to the matter. Deputy Defense Minister Sombat Rotphothong said the following to newsmen at Government House:

[Begin recording] [Sombat] I gave the reminder once before that aggressive criticism of the military, especially by politicians, should be made with care. Soldiers have the right to speak as well, because politicians spoke first. Soldiers in the present era have returned to their barracks, but remarks continue to be made to provoke them. They have feelings too. They should be given the chance to express their feelings; they should not be prohibited from that.

[Unidentified reporter] Is not the issue of the Senate a national issue? Why should it be an issue for soldiers and the government only?

[Sombat] They expressed their personal feelings about this issue, as they are part of the Senate. This is acceptable, is it not? We should listen to all sides.

[Reporter] Who, between permanent officials and politicians, has a greater prerogative to make criticism? Normally, permanent officials cannot make political criticism.

[Sombat] As permanent officials, it may not be proper to critize government actions. At the same time, politicians who hold cabinet posts and are superiors of permanent services should also be careful about their criticism. [end recording]

[Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai at 0530 GMT on 15 December carries the following report: "Deputy Finance Minister Trairong Suwankhiri clarified his remarks made on the recent television program *Different Perspective* in which he disagreed with the use of force to solve the dispute over Hill 491. He said on the program that he did not criticize the military about use of force but talked about the government policy on resolution of the dispute. He contended that his remarks were misunderstood and he gave the assurance that he was not referring to the military, adding that the tape of the program could be replayed to prove it."]

Minister Denies Intention To 'Humiliate' Military

BK1612025992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Dec 92 p 3

[Text] Deputy Finance Minister Trairong Suwannakhiri denied yesterday that he had intended to humiliate the military when he compared waging a war to an affair of beasts. The Democrat MP made the denial after Deputy Army Chief San Siphen said that politicians should watch their mouths because some of their comments had "trampled on the military."

Although Gen San did not make any direct reference to any politician, it was understood he was talking about Mr Trairong who last week made the "affair of beasts" comment during a TV programme on a proposal that military forces be used to dislodge Burmese soldiers from the disputed Hill 491 in Chumphon Province.

Mr Trairong said he had no intention of criticising the military when he made the statement. He merely wanted to express disagreement over the proposal to use force to recapture Hill 491.

"I only wanted to say that we should not use force as we are human beings. The use of force to solve problems is the affair of animals. We should use our brains to solve such problems. We should only use force when talks fail," he explained.

He said he regretted that his comment was interpreted as criticism against the military.

"It would be tantamount to an insult to all our ancestors to make a comment with such an implication," Mr Trairong said.

The deputy minister said that Gen San might have misunderstood his words because the message was not conveyed to him in full. He said that he was confident that the problem will not escalate following his explanation.

Meanwhile, Commerce Minister Uthai Pimchaichon said that he did not believe Mr Trairong's statement would create further problems since Gen San had already reacted to it. He said he did not think the military will make any radical retaliatory gesture.

"The comment made the military upset. Now that it has come out to defend itself against the statement the issue should end," Mr Uthai said. "People can judge for themselves who they agree with," he said.

Deputy Defence Minister Sombat Rotphothong said he had previously warned critics of the military to choose their words with restraint and care because the military has returned to the barracks. Maj-Gen Sombat said Mr Trairong had already cleared up the problem with Gen San over the telephone.

Industry Minister Sanan Khachonprasat said that incorrect press reports on Mr Trairong's remark had caused a misunderstanding among senior military men who might feel offended after reading incomplete excerpts. He said if the Press had published in full the comment made by the minister there would be no problem as the criticism was clearly directed at a certain opposition member who urged the Government to use force to dislodge Burmese troops from the disputed hill.

Mr Trairong made the comment during the Mong Tang Mum (Different Perspectives) television programme which was broadcast on Channel 11 last week. He strongly criticised a call by opposition members including Chat Phatthana Party leader Chatchai Chunhawan who urged the Government to use force to settle the dispute. Mr Trairong compared the Opposition's call to a beast's instinct to fight to get rid of its enemy.

"This is a total misunderstanding caused by incomplete reports in the Press," said Maj-Gen Sanan, who added that if the full comment had been published the public would not have been confused and the military would not have become angry. He said there was no reason for Mr Trairong to criticise the role of the military in the dispute because "the Government and the Army have walked side by side in dealing with the issue."

"We have no conflict with the Army and the misunderstanding could be resolved with understanding," the Democrat Party secretary-general said.

Maj-Gen Sanan admitted there had been attempts to discredit his party by pitting it against the Army. He said he was a little surprised by Gen San's strong reaction to the comment. He said he did not think the issue would turn explosive.

Deputy Industry Minister Phonthep Techaphaibun, another senior Democrat Party member, came out in defence of Mr Trairong, saying that newspapers had unfairly and incorrectly reported his comments, causing a misunderstanding and tension within the Army.

"I watched the programme and I believe that anyone who did the same would have no question about Mr Trairong's intentions," he said.

Minister's 'Unfair Criticism' of Military Viewed

BK1612033792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 16 Dec 92 p A6

[Editorial: "Defending the military is not defending the country"]

[Text] Deputy Army Commander Gen San Siphen actually said nothing new in his heated response to what he perceived as unfair criticism against the military by some politicians. In essence, he reminded us that military officers are human beings with feelings and who care about honour; that they perform the honourable duty of defending the country and want to see the nation progress; that they also want to have some say in national politics, but don't like being unfairly criticized and ridiculed by politicians because there is a limit to their patience with such verbal attacks.

The general's comment was in response to Deputy Finance Minister Trairong Suwannakhiri's remark in the Thai-Burmese dispute over Hill 491 that only "animals" resort to force in settling territorial disputes. There is nothing wrong in Trairong's belief in the principle of peaceful settlement of international territorial disputes. The Chuan administration has also advocated a peaceful settlement to Hill 491.

Unfortunately Trairong's remark, especially his use of the word "animals", was played up by the media in such a way that Trairong could be mistaken as comparing the Thai military to "animals." This is what drew the immediate and vehement response from Gen San, who is normally an amiable general and a good friend of Trairong.

Perhaps Gen San was merely playing a role to boost the morale of his men. But he unfairly took Trairong's remark to mean all Thai soldiers who had fought for the country were nothing better than "animals". Trairong certainly didn't mean to say this at all.

What Trairong seemed to condemn was the tendency of some military hardliners to advocate the use of force to settle the Hill 491 dispute, and thereby show the country how military men risk their lives in defending our territorial integrity. If this was the case then Trairong was right. There is no need to resort to force when Thailand and Burma are still talking. There is no need either for the Thai military to fight a border battle just to prove something.

In fact Gen San told us many things that we suspected all along. The military, especially the Army, is still seething with anger and dissent from public condemnation of the Army's bloody suppression of pro-democracy demonstrators in May. Many senior army officers still believe that shooting at unarmed demonstrators—and killing at least 50 of them and wounding scores of others—was neither morally nor legally wrong.

If they were correct, then there should be no objection to making public the findings of the Defence Ministry's investigation of the May crisis. The people can judge for themselves once and for all whether those military leaders who unleashed heavily armed soldiers on the demonstrators did anything wrong.

Despite the fall from grace of several senior military leaders because of the May bloodshed, the military as an institution still wants to maintain its influential role in national politics. The military resents the suggestion that military officers and bureaucrats should be barred from holding senate posts. A dominant force of military officers was appointed to the Senate by the NPKC [National Peacekeeping Council] coup-makers. We may very well ask these military senators, who still have the bulk of their four-year tenure in front of them, what they have contributed to political development in this country so far? If military officers are allowed to make political comments in public, civilian officials should be given the same privilege. Then, it seems, we can have bureaucrats criticizing the policies of their ministers everyday.

But no government administration really can afford to give the military and the bureaucracy such freedom of expression. In all civilized and democratic countries, the military have no direct say in national politics, and officers avoid commenting on national politics publicly because their job is national defence, not politics. If they have suggestions or grievances they can bring them to the attention af the defence minister. If they are still unhappy, well, they can always resign and enter politics to try to change things through the parliamentary system.

For too long the military have held the self-appointed role of being guardian-cum-referee of Thai politics. The role has its seeds in the military's participation in the 1932 revolution in which absolute monarchy was abolished for constitutional rule, and from the military's refusal to submit to civilian rule in the aftermath of the political upheaval. Intermittently, throughout the subsequent 60 years, the military has intervened in national politics and usurped government power in coups—the last of which took place on Feb 23, 1991.

However, the military's ability to knock down an elected civilian government whenever it chooses doesn't necessarily amount to a legitimate right to dictate our national future indefinitely. In fact their tendency to reject civilian rule and to intervene in politics is a great obstacle to national development.

Since May, there has been the makings of a new chapter in Thai politics in which the military's role has been clearly defined within the expectations of the people—that of defending the country. Recent developments involving the likes of Gen San and others are not in accordance with these expectations.

Vietnam

Ministry Reacts to U.S. Lifting Restrictions

BK1512150092 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] On 15 December, the SRV Foreign Ministry spokesman, in answering a newsman's question on Vietnam's reaction to the U.S. Government allowing U.S. companies to set up offices in Vietnam and hire personnel to sign economic contracts, which will be effective after the lifting of U.S. embargo, said: This is a positive step toward the normalization of relations between Vietnam and the United States. Vietnamese companies, however, contend that it is difficult to have real relations with American companies if these contracts are not immediately effective. Vietnam hopes that the U.S. Government will take further steps to create favorable conditions for U.S. companies to truly engage in business in the Vietnamese market. This will not only benefit the U.S. companies but also serve the interests of the two peoples.

AFP Reports Statement

BK1512131092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1224 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Hanoi, Dec 15 (AFP)—Vietnam welcomed Tuesday the partial lifting of the U.S. economic embargo on Hanoi, but made it clear that it did not feel Washington had gone far enough. "It is a positive step toward the normalization of relations between Vietnam and the United States," the Foreign Affairs Ministry said in a statement. Vietnam however "hopes that the U.S. Government will take new measures creating the conditions allowing U.S. companies to engage in business in the Vietnamese market."

The statement deplored that while U.S. firms will now be able to sign contracts with Vietnam, they will not be able to implement them until the complete lifting of the embargo. "It will be difficult for Vietnamese companies to have real relations with American companies if these contracts cannot be immediately implemented," it said. Washington announced the partial lifting of the embargo Monday following a U.S. senator's report saying that Hanoi was cooperating with efforts to find U.S. soldiers still considered as missing in action (MIA) from the Indochina conflict. [passage omitted] Washington's decision on Monday had been expected here, especially since Japan's announcement in November that it would resume loans to Hanoi, which left the Americans isolated in the application of sanctions.

Diplomats said here Tuesday that the partial lifting of the U.S. trade embargo would result in a surge of foreign investment in Vietnam, if only to forestall the Americans. "American businessmen in sectors like oil and air transport had better not be late in coming," a European diplomat said after the announcement of the easing of the sanctions.

"All the countries that already invest in Vietnam—especially the Asian ones—will want to grab up whatever they can before the American businessmen arrive," the diplomat added. Taiwan and Hong Kong have been the main investors, but they now must reckon with Japan, which decided in November to stop observing the embargo, beginning by lending 370 million dollars to Vietnam.

"The U.S. embargo was politically dead after the Japanese decision, since its only effect now is to punish American companies," another Western expert said. [passage omitted]

Hanoi Radio Comments

BK1612133692 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] On Monday, the U.S. Government decided to give permission to U.S. firms to sign contracts including opening offices in Vietnam, hiring staff, searching and designing forms, and carrying preliminary feasibility study, engineering and technical survey. These contracts will be executed should the embargo against Vietnam be lifted. Following Washington announcement on this decision, there are different reactions from the world public. Here is our radio comment on the issue.

A spokesman for the Vietnamese Foreign Affairs Ministry said this is a positive step toward normalization of the U.S.-Vietnamese relations. However, in the view of Vietnamese companies they feel difficult to deploy practical relations with the U.S. partners if the contracts to be signed cannot take immediate effects.

Vietnam hopes that the U.S. Government will take further steps to create conditions for U.S. companies to really do business from the Vietnamese market. That will not only benefit the U.S. companies but also meet the interests of the two peoples. Meanwhile, former Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke who is now on the visit to Vietnam described the U.S. move as a welcome first step toward fully lifting the U.S. embargo. He said the U.S. seemed to have recognized what other countries already acknowledged that Vietnam was helping a UN peace process in Cambodia and cooperating on the U.S. missing-in-action issue.

American businessmen in Asia also welcomed this U.S. move but they said this decision came a bit too late. They expressed regret over the remaining restrictions. The chairman of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong also welcomed the news but he was not totally happy as long as the embargo is not fully lifted. However, he hoped that by the time President Bush leaves the White House on January 20, 1993, the U.S. embargo against Vietnam will be lifted.

Hanoi Reports Delivery of MIA Remains to U.S.

BK1512151892 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] In Hanoi on 15 December, representatives of the Vietnam MIA Office handed over to representatives of the United States' MIA Office the remains and personal effects of 20 MIA's. These remains and personal effects were collected during the 19th and 20th joint searches between Vietnam and U.S. officials as well as during recent unilateral searches by the Vietnamese side. Since March 1974, Vietnam has, on 39 occasions, handed over to the U.S. side 502 remains of MIAs.

The representative of the U.S. MIA Office praised highly the Vietnamese Government's humanitarian policy and the consistent and increasing cooperation of the Government and people of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Further Reportage on National Assembly Session

Communique No 4

BK1512155992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Communique No. 4 of the Ninth National Assembly's Second Session]

[Text] On 15 December, the National Assembly held a plenary session at the conference hall in Hanoi to discuss the socioeconomic situation and issues related to the state budget and national defense and security. Comrade Nguyen Ha Phan, vice chairman of the National Assembly, directed the session.

Various deputies discussed and appraised results in implementing the socioeconomic tasks and state budget as well as work related to national defense and security in 1992. They also discussed tasks for 1993.

In the afternoon proceedings, the National Assembly voted to approve the Prime Minister's proposal on the appointment of the minister of forestry.

New Forestry Minister Approved

BK1612040192 Hanoi VNA in English 1506 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 15—Deputies to the current Second Session of the Ninth National Assembly today hold a plenary meeting to discuss the socioeconomic situation and the state budget.

Almost all deputies agreed with the government report which pointed out major accomplishments of most of the major socieconomic tasks for 1992. They particularly noted the success in agricultural production, a change for a better in industrial production, the control of inflation, stabilization of market prices, a healthy economic growth and fairly high export value and the overfulfilment of the major targets of capital construction.

Regarding the socioeconomic tasks for 1993, the deputies urged early promulgation of the policy to allot land to farmers for long-term use, amendment to the law on agricultural tax, adoption of policies to support farm produce prices and a more active approach to the introduction of scientific and technical advances into production.

Most speakers called attention to measures to protect domestic industries by granting them more loans to renew technologies and equipment, lowering export taxes and expanding the market.

As far as import-export operations are concerned, a number of deputies voiced doubt about the practicability of the ban on import of goods that cannot yet be produced in the country. They suggested instead a readjustment of the import tariff.

At this session, the deputies approved by show of hands the prime minister's appointment of Mr. Nguyen Quang Ha to the post of minister of forestry in replacement of Phan Xuan Dot. Tomorrow, the deputies will again meet in plenary session.

16 Dec Proceedings Reported

BK1612054492 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] The National Assembly continued its plenary session this morning, 16 December, at the conference hall in Hanoi. It ratified the resolution approving the Prime Minister's appointment of comrade Nguyen Quang Ha as Minister of Forestry.

Afterward, the National Assembly discussed and contributed ideas on the government's 1992 socioeconomic report, and on the orientations and tasks for 1993. All deputies expressed an identity of views with the government report on the economic achievements in 1992, especially in agriculture and plans to allocate the state budget in 1993. Various deputies also discussed other issues related to the allocation of the state budget, the collection of state revenues; and efforts to resolve difficulties in the education, public health, and agriculture promotion.

Report on Mountain Regions

BK1612081992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] Dear friends, at the opening meeting of the Ninth National Assembly's Second Session, delegates heard many important reports of the government, including a report by Comrade Hoang Duc Nghi, minister of state in charge of the mountain regions and nationalities affairs. The report dealt with the implementation of socioeconomic policy toward ethnic minorities and the mountain regions.

After presenting the mountain regions' unique characteristics and significant strategic role in the political, economic, national defense, and security domains, Comrade Hoang Duc Nghi's report stressed two major issues:

1. Achievements in the implementation of the policy toward ethnic minorities and the mountain regions and problems that remain to be resolved. Regarding this issue, the report stressed that during the past several years, the party, government, ministries, sectors, and administrative echelons have promulgated many policies, directives, and notices to guide the implementation of the policy on developing the socioeconomic and ethnic minorities situation in the mountain regions. However, low results have been achieved in the implementation of this policy, thus preventing the resolution of various problems of the region. It can be said that some mountain regions experienced more difficulties than those in the war years when forests were destroyed. At present, the mountain regions experience new pressure caused by population growth and serious environmental destruction.

Implementing the party renovation policy, especially renovation in the economy in accordance with the spirit of the Sixth and Seventh CPV [Communist Party of Vietnam] Congresses, agencies from the central to local levels have reviewed their activities to formulate new policies on the economy and ethnic minorities to meet the requirements of the renovation undertaking. The main points of these policies are contained in the party Central Committee's Resolution No. 10 and the government's Resolutions Nos. 22 and 72 on developing the socioeconomic situation in the mountain regions. The party and government have formulated orientations and strategies for the northern mountain regions' socioeconomic development program till the year 2000. Various projects on developing the socioeconomic, national defense, and security for the Central Highlands, and other regions have also been mapped out. During the past two years, the government has concentrated efforts on definitely and effectively resolving various major strategic problems related to the socioeconomic, national defense, and security domains. Moreover, various pressing issues in localities have also been promptly and effectively resolved. During the same period, allocation of loans and budget, investment in building the infrastructure, and the implementation of other projects for the mountain regions and ethnic minorities have been improved.

In 1992, despite budget constraints, the state has strived to meet various urgent requirements and has gradually invested in building infrasturcture in the mountain regions. This year the government has also decided to build concrete projects for 15 mountain provinces in the north. In 1993, the government will build more projects for the Central Highlands and other mountain regions.

Despite implementing the economic renovation policy for the mountain regions in a short period of time, many localities have scored new achievements in production and business. The market economy has taken shape and developed in some regions. Agricultural production has been gradually shifted to intensive cultivation to optimally exploit fertile land. Some regions have become self- sufficient in grain. Many families have become rich thanks to the fruit orchard economy and other trades. Education, and economic and cultural activities have been expanded. These are encouraging achievements scored by the mountain provinces. However, difficulties still prevail in various mountain regions of the north and the Central Highlands, especially regarding the people's spiritual and material lives. These people experienced a shortage of electricity and grains and suffered from malaria, goiter, leprosy, and intestinal diseases. The most pressing problems now are population growth—which is higher than the increased rate of food production—and the serious destruction of forests and the environment.

After pointing out achievements and shortcomings in the socioeconomic development for the mountain regions, the report stressed eight major tasks to be urgently carried out. These include the strengthening of goods production; building more roads; improving the people's daily meals and other activities; formulating measures to eliminate malaria, goiter, and leprosy; ensuring the six essential consumer goods for the people's daily lives; organizing training courses for ethnic minorities; promoting cultural and information work; and improving the settlement of nomads to encourage them to stop planting poppy plants. In summing up, efforts must be made to improve transportation and irrigation, to supply more electricity to production and processing establishments, to promote cultural and information work, and to strengthen education and training. These are immediate and long-term tasks that require a substantial budget. However, we must satisfactorily carry out these tasks because they will greatly affect the socioeconomic development program. Most importantly, we must organize the effective implementation of these tasks while assigning cadres to supervise and work with the local people. Various central and local sectors and echelons must cooperate in providing localities with competent cadres.

2. Orientations and tasks for 1993. In this part, the report said that in 1993 we must strive to consolidate and to develop the socioeconomic situation in the mountain regions to suit the local conditions while restoring and improving the environment. Efforts must be made to gradually improve the material, spiritual, and cultural

lives of the ethnic minorities; to encourage them to produce handicraft products for export; to strengthen national unity to stabilize the politico-social situation; and to improve national defense and security tasks, especially in the border areas and regions of ethnic minorities. Special attention must be paid to promoting production in localities that have the potential to produce essential goods and the ability to expand markets. Attention must also be paid to production and the daily lives of ethnic minorities, especialy poor families, in remote areas near the border.

We must strive to formulate plans to satisfactorily implement the greenery program in areas of fallow land and bare hills; to strengthen national defense in the border areas; to promote the settlement of nomads; to improve education and training programs; to expand cultural, information, and public health work; to enhance the people's general background; to quickly curb and eliminate diseases in ethnic minority areas; and to resolve other social vices.

The report further said that investment in developing the economic and cultural domains in the mountain regions must be carried out in parallel with the national defense and security tasks in the areas. The report stressed that efforts must be made to effect uniform investment in various border provinces, especially those in the southwestern border, the Central Highlands, and other inland mountain regions. We must also strive to protect the country's coastal areas, offshore islands, and territorial waters, the report concluded.

Communique No 5

BK1612152792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 16 Dec 92

["Communique No.5 of the Ninth National Assembly's Second Session"]

[Text] On 16 December, the National Assembly held a plenary session at the conference hall with National Assembly Vice-Chairman Nguyen Ha Phan presiding over the session.

In the morning, the National Assembly heard Vote-Counting Committee Chairman Pham Loi report on the results of a vote to approve the prime minister's recommendation for the appointment of the minister of forestry. Mr. Nguyen Quang Ha was elected minister of forestry, winning 89.62 percent of the total votes casted. The National Assembly passed a resolution to ratify the prime minister's recommendation for the appointment of the Ministry of Forestry. The National Assembly devoted its remaining time in the morning and the afternoon to continuing its discussion on economic, social, national defense and security, and state budget matters.

VNA Cites UN Investigation of Cambodian Incident

BK1612070192 Hanoi VNA in English 0600 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 16—Eric Falt, spokesman for the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), on Monday made known that UNTAC had completed investigations on a report that three armed Cambodians on Nov. 2, 1992 crossed Vietnam's border into Loc Hoa village, Loc Ninh District, Song Be Province, kidnapped nine persons and killed four of them.

VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Cambodia further reported that the three armed Cambodians forced local villagers to give them rice and forced a nine-member family to go to a place in Cambodia near Tra Peng village, Snun District, Kratie Province. As the abductees refused, they shot dead four of them, three men and one woman, and raped two girls, 18 and 20 years old, before setting them free .

The UNTAC investigation team identified three of the armed Cambodians as the same who had in last October attacked 12 Vietnamese in the same Loc Hoa village. They then wore uniforms of Phnom Penh police and army. UNTAC still is unable to tell which faction of Cambodians the attackers belong to.

Military Delegation Ends PRC Visit

BK1512144692 Hanoi VNA in English 1430 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 15—The military delegation led by General Doan Khue left Nanning today for home successfully ending its official friendship visit to China. While in China after working sessions in Beijing the delegation toured Shanghai, Shenzhen, Canton, and Nanning.

Armenian Vice President Concludes Visit

BK1512150492 Hanoi VNA in English 1432 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 15—The state delegation of the Republic of Armenia led by Vice-President Gagik Arutyunyan left Ho Chi Minh City today, successfully concluding its official friendship visit to Vietnam from Dec. 11.

On behalf of the president and state of Armenia, Vice-President G. Arutyunyan invited President Le Duc Anh, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and Vice-President Nguyen Thi Binh to pay an official visit to Armenia. The Vietnamese leaders accepted the invitation with pleasure. The time for the visit will be agreed upon through diplomatic channel.

Australia

Keating Promises 900 Troops for Somalia

BK1512054692 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Australia's largest overseas commitment of ground forces for 20 years is set to be deployed in Somalia within weeks. Federal cabinet has decided to send 900 troops from the Townsville-based First Infantry Battalion. Linda Mortram reports they will work with the United States' Operation Restore Hope:

[Begin recording] [Mortram] Prime Minister Paul Keating announced cabinet's decision, stressing that Operation Restore Hope has the United Nations mandate.

[Keating] As Australians I think we should be proud to take our place as part of this coalition to enforce and keep a just humanitarian peace.

[Moertram] As well as the infantry, there will be a reduced squadron of armored personnel carriers and administrative support. Initial elements are set to leave Australia on 23 December with the remainder due to arrive in Somalia by 10 January—the expected deployment date. Two Australian ships, Jarvis Bay and Tobruk, will carry some personnel and equipment; 800 of the contingent will fly to Somalia on chartered 747's.

Mr. Keating says the 900 will spend a maximum of 17 weeks in Somalia, adding that he is confident they are fully equipped to handle any dangers. Total cost is set at $19.5 million. [end recording]

Government Rejects 89 Cambodians as Refugees

BK1612084692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1045 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Canberra, Dec 15 (AFP)—The Australian government rejected Tuesday the refugee applications of 89 Cambodian boat people, who will now be repatriated under a United Nations peace plan.

Immigration Minister Gerry Hand said in a statement the claims were examined and the unsucessful applicants had been offered repatriation assistance in line with international practice. Refugee status was granted to two Cambodians. The decisions involved most of the 119 people who arrived on a boat at Broome in Western Australia on March 31, 1990. They had been held in a Sydney immigration detention centre.

Some 140 Cambodian boat people await determination of their refugee applications. Hand said a number of asylum claimants would receive final decisions over the next few weeks.

PRC-Launched Satellite Begins Operation 16 Dec

BK1612075292 Hong Kong AFP in English 0741 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] SYDNEY, Dec 16 (AFP)—A Chinese launched Australian satellite began its communications life early Wednesday carrying its first customer telecommunications traffic, Optus Communications said. The Optus B1, the first new-generation Hughes HS-601 satellite to be put into orbit, was built in the United States and launched by China atop a Long March 2E rocket August 14.

Optus chief operating officer Ian Boatman said the satellite began carrying traffic at 3.15 am (1615 GMT Tuesday [15 December]), when the older A1 satellite's receivers were switched off at the end of its commercial life and B1's receivers powered up. He said the B1 was now carrying all the A1 signals, including commercial television, telephone calls and other broadcast services.

Preparations for the changeover began several weeks ago when the B1 was propelled into an orbit position close to A1.

"The transition went very smoothly," Boatman said in a statement. "We were able to contain the total disruption to services to less than 40 seconds," he said. Optus plans to launch its second new-generation satellite, the B2, later this month. China will again provide the launch from its Xichang rocket facility around December 20.

Fiji

President Ganilau Resumes Office After Illness

BK1512063292 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Fiji's president, Sir Ratu Penaia Ganilau, has resumed office after a three-month stay in an American hospital suffering from a viral infection. Ratu Sir Penaia returned to Fiji two weeks ago and he has been resting. During his absence, the former prime minister, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, was acting president.

Solomon Islands

PNG Soldier Defects, Alleges Atrocities

BK1512063892 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] A Papua New Guinea [PNG] Defense Forces soldier, who has defected to Solomon Islands, has told Solomons police of atrocities committed by PNG force in Bougainville. South Pacific corresponent, Erina Redden, reports the soldier entered Solomon Islands illegally last Friday [11 December].

[Begin Redden recording] Deputy police commissioner (Martin Serejei) says (Noa Tayuna) is a Bougainvillian who was a member of the Spear Movement of the PNG security forces in the island. Mr. (Serejei) says Mr.

(Tayuna) alleged his 14-year old sister had been gang-raped last Wednesday by security forces and his brother shot dead when he went to make inquiries about the rape. Mr (Tayuna) also told police his concerned about conditions in the care centers set up by the PNG Government to protect civilians from fighting. He alleged that people were taken from the centers and shot by the security forces in retaliation for PNG soldiers killed by the Bougainville Revolutionary Army. The deputy police commissioner says the police are treating all information cautiously. [end recording]